

AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 47

MARCH 1988



**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173,
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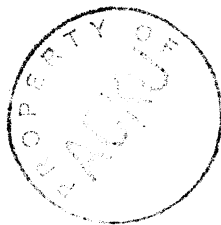
CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT) AFGHANISTAN

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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor



AFGHANISTAN REPORT: MARCH 1988

**IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN**

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ACRONYMS

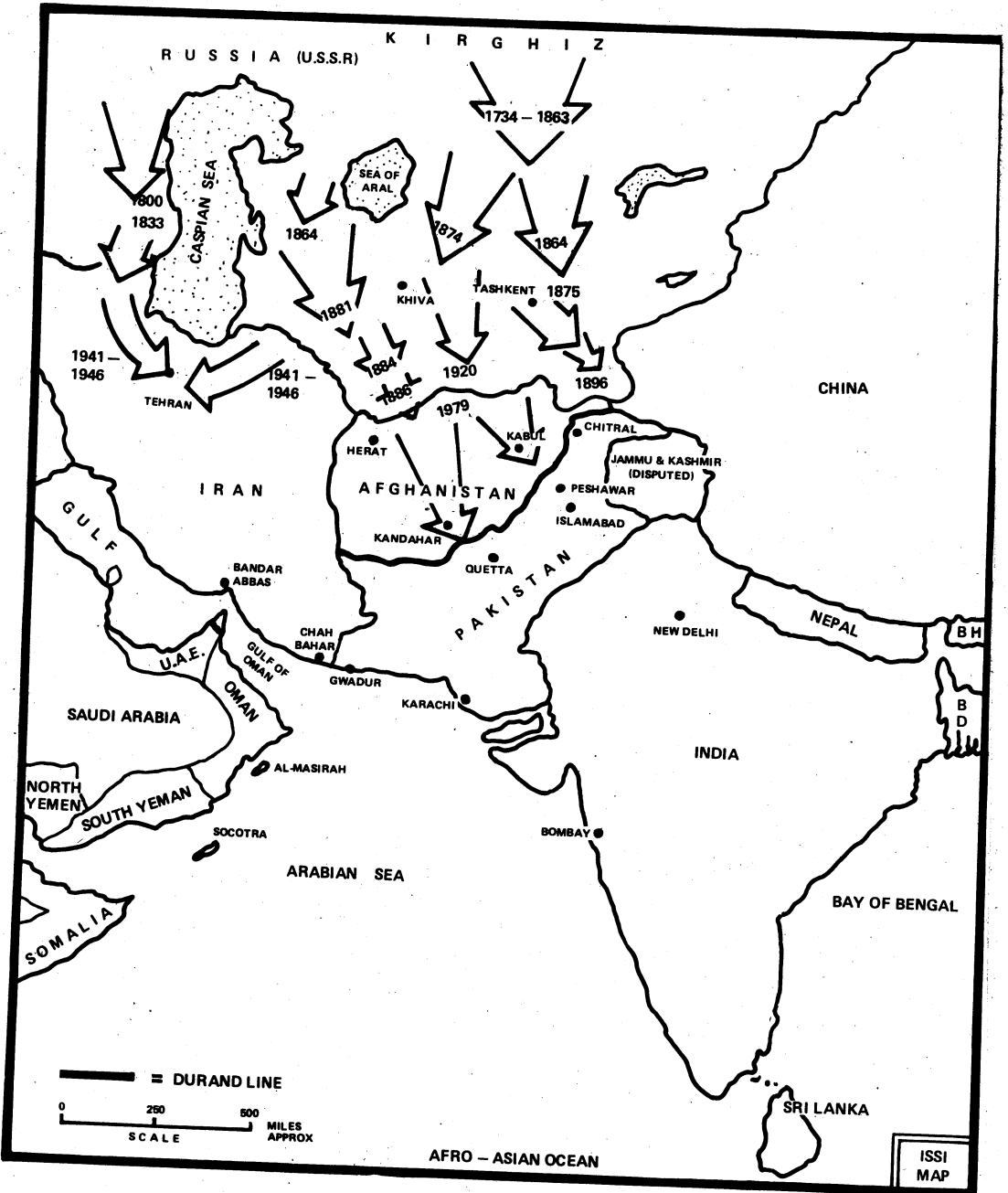
AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
NVDP	=	Ningarhar Valley Development Project.
NRP	=	National Reconciliation Policy.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (see map Appendix 9)

During the month of February 1988, Mujahideen sources reported 226 incidents in 25 out of 29 provinces of Afghanistan. These sources reported no activity from Laghman, Badghis, Uruzgan and Bamiyan provinces.

Radio Kabul reported 22 engagements in 9 provinces. These included 15 operations undertaken by Soviet-Kabul security forces and 7 operations by “counter-revolutionaries”.

A break down of the 226 incidents reported by the Mujahideen sources was:

Mujahideen attacked some 67 mobile targets: military convoys, mobile detachments, aircraft and helicopters. Mujahideen reportedly ambushed convoys and contingents on the Salang highway passing through Parwan, Baghlan and Samangan.

Mujahideen also attacked about 90 immobile targets: security posts, military camps, administrative centres, ruling party (PDPA) offices and establishments. Airports at Kabul, Bagram and Shindand were also attacked by Mujahideen.

Soviet-Kabul troops conducted 27 ground operations and atleast 42 air operations on Mujahideen fixed positions and mobile detachments in February 1988. They were apparently passive in most of the 12 provinces bordering Pakistan and Iran.

Compared to previous months, there was a significant decline in military engagements in Afghanistan. Perhaps the persons and institutions involved in dissemination of combat news were taking greater interest in covering political and diplomatic developments in and around Afghanistan.

Likewise major western sources put out fewer news items on events in Afghanistan. The PBC monitoring report carried only one BBC news item on fighting in Afghanistan during February 1988.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Baghlan, Qandahar and Herat. Sizeable engagements took place in Parwan, Takhar and Paktiya provinces.

Urban conflict was reported in and around 12 provincial capitals, including the major cities like Qandahar, Herat and Kabul.

Mujahideen claimed that 7 aircraft and 3 helicopters were either

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

shot in the air or hit on ground in February. Such incidents took place in 5 provinces, namely, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Takhar, Kabul and Parwan.

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Soviet built bombers hit villages near Zaranj in Nimruz province killing 20 civilians. Many houses were destroyed.

Mujahideen killed an Afghan army commander in Ghazni city.

Mujahideen also captured six Afghan army officers in Gulcheen area of Ghazni province. Fierce clashes occurred between Soviet Afghan commandos and Mujahideen at Shalezi village, Ghazni. Mujahideen intercepted Soviet-Kabul troops near Qarabagh town and Mushkey (Ghazni) on February 19.

Mujahideen caused 2 bomb blasts in Hazar Nao area, Ningarhar province on February 12. The first blast occurred at the residence of a former Governor claiming his nephew's life. The second blast took place in a Khad Office where 4 men got killed and 16 others wounded.

Mujahideen attacked military positions of the 11th Afghan army division at Barikot, Kunar. Mujahideen took 83 men as prisoners.

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Afghan militia intercepted a Mujahideen convoy on Mazai Baghlan highway in Kunduz province.

Soviet-Kabul troops attacked a Mujahideen centre in Aibak, Samangan on February 18.

The search and destroy campaign by Soviet-Kabul troops continued in Balkh and Jozjan provinces.

Mujahideen attacked military positions of Soviet-Kabul troops in Daulatabad, Shirin Taghab and Maimana city of Faryab province.

Provinces Bordering Iran

See the following section on major military engagements for military activity in Herat.

Mujahideen ambushed convoys and mobile detachments of Soviet Kabul troops in Farah province in early February.

Central Provinces

Mujahideen attacked administration and military establishments in Shehrak, Ghor province on February 8.

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Radio Kabul reported that Kabul forces captured a consignment of weapons intended for use in "subversive activities" in Qarghai, Lagh-

man. Kabul New Times in its February 15 issue reported that "extremist groups causing disturbance in various localities of Laghman province were wiped out".

2 — MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Massive Search Campaign

Soviet-Kabul troops started a campaign to locate and wipe out Mujahideen positions in adjoining areas between Zabul and Hilmand provinces.

Soviet-Kabul forces accelerated and widened a campaign to locate and destroy Mujahideen centre in Northern provinces of Samangan, Balkh and Jozjan in February.

Soviet-Kabul authorities sent reinforcements/supplies to Faizabad, Badakhshan. Mujahideen suspected these reinforcements were meant to help Soviet-Kabul troops break a Mujahideen blockade at Kesham town in Badakhshan province. Kesham which was recently taken by Mujahideen is situated in a commanding position on strategic communication routes between Takhar, Badakhshan and Kunar provinces.

Mujahideen reported that Soviet-Kabul authorities were reinforcing Farah cantonment.

Baghlan Province

Since late January Mujahideen were active on the Salang highway, frequently attacking Soviet-Kabul troops and convoys.

Mujahideen killed a Soviet officer alongwith 2 Khad agents in Baghlan city. They also captured 18 Kabul troops in Yakhchal and Daran Sal areas.

Armoured units of a Soviet-Kabul force surrounded a Mujahideen centre near Khinjan town, Baghlan. The force seemed to have been sent out to recover Baghlan's Governor Sultan Mehmud from the custody of Mujahideen. The Governor, taken prisoner during an ambush on January 8, was in the meantime, tried by Mujahideen's summary court in the liberated territory and executed.

An exchange of prisoners took place near Pul-e-Khumri town on February 2. An Afghan Mujahid was released by Kabul authorities in exchange for a Kabul army officer.

Mujahideen reportedly arrested 4 Soviet troops during an attack on security posts in Shehr-e-Kohna, Baghlan. Soviet built jets bombarded Mujahideen positions at Sheikh Jalal, Kohe Guzran and Khirjan areas.

Mujahideen stepped up attacks at mobile and immobile targets in Baghlan province. They also took up positions close to the Salang highway.

Soviet-Kabul troops backed by armoured units attacked Mujahideen positions in the outskirts of Baghlan city.

Qandahar

Mujahideen attacked a number of military targets in Qandahar province. Mujahideen attacked: Security posts at Qale Kohna, a military camp in Qandahar city and 2 posts in Qandahar city outskirts.

Soviet-Kabul units surrounded some Mujahideen positions in Mohallajat area. A Mujahideen commander, Abdul Hai, was killed during an ambush laid by Soviet-Kabul troops in Mohallajat. Kabul artillery heavily shelled Mujahideen positions in Mohallajat on February 7.

Mujahideen fired rockets at Qandahar cantonment and at security posts in Spin Ziarat and Mahi areas.

Mujahideen hit Soviet-Kabul troops in Dand and Arghandab in mid February.

Mujahideen freed 10 freedom fighters during an attack on a Qandahar jail.

Herat

Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul military positions in Deh Surkh, Hasanabad and Kaiach areas.

Mujahideen attacked Shindand airbase.

Mujahideen also attacked various targets in and around Herat city including an army camp in Gulbacha area. They also attacked security posts in Koshan district.

Parwan

Mujahideen repeatedly attacked security posts guarding Bagram airbase during the first two weeks of February. Soviet built planes bombed Mujahideen centre in Sufian area, inflicting many casualties.

Mujahideen were particularly active on the highway leading to Baghlan province. They seized large quantities of arms and ammunition from a security post in Daulat Shahi area.

Mujahideen ambushed a Soviet-Kabul force planning to attack Mujahideen positions in Jablus Siraj.

Mujahideen attacked security post along Salang highway on February 18.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimruz (also bordering Iran)

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attacked a body of Kabul government troops near the provincial headquarters, Zaranj, on February 14. A tank and a truck were destroyed. Atleast 8 Kabuli soldiers were also killed. Later Soviet-Kabul forces bombarded Morkali village where "most of the houses were razed to the ground".

VIRA: Soviet planes bombarded civilian population in Nimruz province as a result of which 20 civilians were martyred (February 27, 1988).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen ambushed a large military convoy near Kajaki on February 8. Ten burnt out lorries and tanks were counted.

On February 20, Soviet-Kabul forces launched a series of major attacks on Mujahideen positions in Hilmand province. Armoured units searched villages and hideouts for freedom fighters over an area of 30 kilometres radius around the provincial headquarters of Lashkargah.

VIRA: Soviet invading troops launched a new offensive against the positions of the Mujahideen in the province recently. Sixty fighter planes and helicopters are reported to have taken part in these operations.

According to another report the Mujahideen of Hilmand operating on Lashkargah highway succeeded in destroying 30 tanks and military vehicles. A number of troops were also killed.

Similarly the Mujahideen shot down a Soviet helicopter in Mora Qala area of Hilmand. All the crew members, reported to have been killed, were Russians (News Pushto: February 8, 1988).

VOA: Afghan Mujahideen say they have surrounded the Soviet and Afghan military units in southern Afghanistan province of Hilmand. Here is Irfan Ghazi from Islamabad:

The messages received in Pakistan border town of Quetta from Afghanistan say that the Mujahideen have repulsed the Soviet-Kabul troop's offensive in northern areas of Hilmand province. Mujahideen sources say they have taken the positions and have besieged the communist forces.

The Soviet led offensive was started in the last week of January and according to the Mujahideen commanders, nearly ten thousand

men had been besieged in Moosa-Kala, Zamandawer, Sangli and Qadirki areas. They were constantly shelled and as a result, their chief commander Maulvi Nasim Ahmed had to flee towards further north from Bakrat. But he is reported to have returned to his base early this month where he reorganized the troops and launched a counter-attack. The commander has been quoted as saying that his men had shot down two jet bombers and a helicopter besides destroying nearly 40 tanks and other armoured vehicles of the enemy. The commander further said that the communists had to retreat towards Qadirki. In this fighting, 23 Mujahideen were killed and 70 others wounded.

The Radio Kabul in a broadcast on Tuesday said that Afghan armed forces had recently crushed what it said was an extremist group. It may be added that this term is specifically used for the Mujahideen by Kabul authorities.

However, both these reports could not be confirmed from independent sources. But, the Mujahideen, active in Sangeen (ph) and Qadirki districts, have confirmed that the Mujahideen have besieged the communist forces. The sources also reported several serious clashes in which both the sides suffered heavy losses (Radio Report Urdu: February 19, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Since the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation 279 families consisting of 1,590 members have returned from Iran and Pakistan, and have resettled in their native localities in various regions of Hilmand province (Radio Kabul: February 1, 1988).

The extremist armed groups, which had indulged in disruptionist activities in Laghman and Hilmand provinces, were recently wiped out by the brave security forces.

Military correspondents of Bakhtar News Agency have reported that the vigilant security forces at the request of the local people and national reconciliation commission entered the areas. While observing ceasefire they asked the terrorist groups to surrender. Instead of surrendering, the criminals opened fire on the security forces. The security forces returned the fire as a result of which a number of extremists including four ring leaders were killed (February 14, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 2 February: One of the senior most Mujahideen commander, Captain Abdul Hai, was ambushed and killed by Kabul government troops in Panjwai area.

4 February: Six Mujahideen captured in Qandahar city.

7 February: Mujahideen mount a number of counter attacks in and around Qandahar city. A security post wiped out.

Soviet-Kabul forces heavily shell and bombard Mujahideen positions in Mohallajat. Seven houses demolished.

Mujahideen fire missiles on Qandahar cantonment. Three vehicles destroyed and a portion of officer's hostel damaged. Three army officers also reported killed.

Mujahideen fire missiles on security posts in Spin Ziarat, hitting a tank and another armoured vehicle.

11 February: Mujahideen attack a security post at Mani in Qandahar city. The building damaged by rockets.

16 February: Mujahideen kill 13 "Soviet troops" during attack in Dand and Arghandab suburbs. An armoured vehicle also destroyed.

18 February: Mujahideen break into Central Jail in Qandahar and secure release of 10 compatriots. They also attacked a "military centre" in the cantonment area. Two tanks and a bulldozer hit.

22 February: Mujahideen fire rockets on the border town and Soviet-Kabul military strongpoint of Spin Buldak. At least one tank and 2 trucks were hit. Fourteen Government troops killed or injured.

24 February: Heavy fighting continues between "combined forces of Red Army and Kabul Regime troops" and Mujahideen in Panjwai area. Both sides have suffered casualties.

VIRA: Eight posts of the Communists troops were destroyed in Qandahar recently (February 5, 1988).

Nine soldiers of the Afghan army have fled from Qandahar Garrison and arrived in Pakistan (February 7, 1988).

The Mujahideen foiled an attack of the Soviet-Kabul forces in Mohallajat area of Qandahar province and compelled them to retreat after destroying four tanks and inflicting heavy losses on them (February 7, 1988).

VOA: In Qandahar, local Mujahideen almost daily carry out attacks on Soviet Afghan garrisons and in the early weeks of February, seven big operations were carried out during which they also captured an Afghan military garrison in the suburbs of the town.

In Quetta, the Mujahideen sources have reported that they have besieged Panjwai town, some 20 kilometres south-west of Qandahar. The Afghan forces attempt to break the siege of the town and send reinforcements there was foiled by the Mujahideen and fierce fighting has been continuing there since Wednesday (23 February 1988).

Radio Kabul: Two leaders of the Afghan counter-revolutionary armed groups, Abdul Hai and Fazal Mohammad who were committing robbery in the outskirts of Qandahar province were killed by the security forces.

According to the Bakhtar News Agency the people of Qandahar

district informed the national reconciliation commission and security forces. The security forces surrounded the group and asked them to surrender but when the counter-revolutionary group refused to do so, the security forces wiped out the group including the leaders, Abdul Hai and Fazal Mohammad (News Pushto: February 5, 1988).

KNT: Extremist groups committed another shocking anti-Islamic and inhuman crime in attacking the related areas of Spinbuldak district of Qandahar province by shelling ground-to-ground rockets from the other side of the border.

The extremist groups recently fired over 700 ground-to-ground rockets on the various regions of the district, as a result of which one compatriot was killed and ten others wounded. The wounded were rushed to the hospital.

The report adds that a mosque and a school were destroyed and a number of residential houses damaged in the attack (*KNT:* February 17, 1988).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: Soviet-Kabul troops started large scale movements in south-eastern provinces of Zabul and Hilmand on February 20. Soviet armoured units were seen in areas between Qalat Ghilzai and Shankai. A number of clashes were reported from the two provinces simultaneously of which details were however lacking.

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: 27 January: A tank "carrying Soviet Army Personnel" hits a landmine outside Ghazni city and was destroyed.

In a clash in Gulcheen area, Mujahideen capture 10 Afghan army officers. Four Mujahideen martyred.

28 January: An Afghan military officer arrives at a Mujahideen "centre" near Muqar and surrenders. He came in an armoured vehicle.

On February 8: Mujahideen and a 250 man unit of Red Army commandos fought a bloody battle at Shalezi village. The commandos retreated, but on the following day Soviet-Kabul forces launched a massive assault on the village. The village was pounded with artillery and "most" of the houses were destroyed.

On February 19: Mujahideen intercept a body of Soviet troops at Mushkey. On February 20 a military convoy was hit in the same area. A tank was destroyed and 13 soldiers killed.

Radio Tehran: The Mujahideen recently attacked the jail of Ghazni province and got released 200 Mujahideen prisoners (February 24, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A group of 50 armed opponents who had been involved in terrorist activities in Muqar Ulaswali of Ghazni province joined the policy of national reconciliation yesterday.

According to the report of a military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency, leader of the group pledged on behalf of others that they would help implement the policy of national reconciliation in their area (February 3, 1988).

Paktika

KNT: An extremist armed group comprised of 10 persons who were going to perpetrate bloodshed in the suburbs of Paktika province were captured by the border forces (February 5, 1988).

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: 4 February: Mujahideen shot down a Soviet jet fighter with a missile near Khost airport.

6 February: Mujahideen hit a newly established military post in Gurbuzz district with rockets, missiles and light arms.

A "TV station"—possibly booster-inaugurated in Paktiya. It shows Kabul regimes propaganda films and operates for 2 hours in a day.

7 February: Mujahideen fire rockets on Khost cantonment. Army barracks and a vehicle hit.

8 February: A jet aircraft shot down in Jaji Maidan.

15 February: Soviet made helicopters bombarded a north bound supply convoy of Mujahideen in Zurmat area. Nine Mujahideen killed and several others injured. A helicopter was also hit and destroyed by missiles.

22 February: An MI-8 transport helicopter with "3 Afghan Army personnel and high ranking Russian Officer" on board shot down with a missile near Jaji cantonment.

24 February: Soviet-Kabul forces seem to be planning another major operation on Mujahideen centres, Jihadwal and others, in Paktiya province. Their air attacks on these centres have become more frequent and of longer durations recently. They are also believed to be ferrying war like supplies to Khost by transport planes.

VIRA: A report from Paktiya province says that the Muslim Freedom Fighters in the course of successful operations shot down a military transport plane of the communist regime in Zadran area and blasted 7 tanks and military vehicles of the Russian troops.

According to another report from Paktiya, the Russian invading troops forced the people of a village to a Mosque and later blasted the Mosque. As a result of this explosion, 16 villagers including 7 children

were martyred. Diplomatic sources put the casualties at 20 (February 7, 1988).

Radio Tehran: According to a report of Central News Unit, in a fierce battle in Zadran near Khost, a Kabul regime military transport plane was shot down by the Afghan Mujahideen.

In another operation in the same area, seven armoured personnel carriers of the Kabul government were destroyed and all the personnel on board were either killed or wounded by the Mujahideen.

A commander of the Afghan Mujahideen said fierce fighting is going on in that area and the Soviet-Kabul troops have been forced to retreat after suffering heavy losses in men and materials (February 3, 88).

VOA: The diplomats say the Mujahideen have regained control of most of the road linking the eastern Afghan Army garrison at Khost with the Paktiya province capital of Gardez. Last month, Soviet led forces broke an 8 year long rebel siege of the Khost garrison (February 2, 1988).

AFP: Mujahideen guerillas in eastern Paktiya province have meanwhile resumed their siege of the Khost Gardez highway, diplomats said, adding that the absence of military convoys moving south indicated that Soviet and Afghan forces were prepared to "concede" the strategic road to guerillas (February 9, 1988).

Radio Kabul: According to the military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency a group of ten armed terrorists was arrested by the vigilant security forces, while trying to cross over to Paktiya province for committing subversive activities (February 3, 1988).

KNT: Over 1,100 inhabitants of Sayed Karam district, Paktiya province, including men and women, have been organized in defence groups and perform their patriotic duties in safeguarding peace and security of villages.

A large number of Sayed Karam district citizens have joined voluntarily the revolution defence groups during the one year of national accord for realization of this humanitarian policy. The number shows an increase of 50 per cent over last year.

The members of revolution defence groups are organized in 56 groups and four detachments which have the charge of security of 60 villages. They have blocked arms smuggling routes of extremists. They captured during the current year about six caravans of weapons and ammunition of extremists which were being smuggled.

In the same period, 23 trained terrorists of extremist groups based in Pakistan and Iran, who tried to penetrate into the territory of Afghanistan with the intention of creating an atmosphere of panic and terror in Zendajan district of Herat and Wazakhwa district of Paktiya,

were arrested by border guards (February 10, 1988).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: 12 February: A prominent Khad officer (Kabeer) was killed in a bomb attack in Hazar Nao.

14 February: Mujahideen fired rockets on security posts in Achin area.

VIRA: In another attack on military posts in Achin area of Jalalabad district the Mujahideen killed 14 communists (February 21, 1988).

BBC: Soviet News Agency TASS has reported that a convoy was stopped at Afghan-Pakistan border in Ningarhar which was carrying weapons and ammunition. TASS has reported the convoy was carrying a huge quantity of missiles, explosives and heavy and light weapons (February 7, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A consignment of arms and ammunition which was on its way to Khogiani Wolesswali from across the border, to disrupt peaceful life of our people, was recently seized by the security forces.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency has reported that the consignment included a huge quantity of ground-to-ground missiles, rockets, light arms and explosives (February 6, 1988).

Bakhtar correspondent has reported that 49 of our compatriots returned to their homeland from Pakistan yesterday. The report added that after extending them necessary facilities, these compatriots were shifted to their respective places of residence in Ningarhar (February 29, 1988).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: On February 12, Mujahideen attacked elements of the Afghan army 11th Division in Barikot region. Two tanks and a military vehicle were hit with rockets and atleast 10 soldiers killed or wounded in the predawn attack.

VIRA: In another operation, which the freedom fighters carried out in Kunar province, two security posts of the enemy troops were destroyed and 12 communist troops were either killed or wounded (February 2, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The extremist elements recently opened fire with heavy arms on a residential area of Bar Narang in Kunar province. Military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency has reported that the extremists by firing ground-to-ground missiles, seriously injured two of our compatriots and damaged a number of houses (February 14, 1988).

Provinces Bordering USSR

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: The Soviet occupation authorities have sent large quantities of arms, ammunition and other supplies to Faizabad, headquarters of Badakhshan province bordering on the Soviet Union, where over 2,000 Soviet troops have been concentrated.

According to the reports the supplies were sent by a number of flights daily in the second week of February. The Mujahideen sources maintained that the Soviet troops wanted to break the blockade of the Mujahideen near Kasham, a famous town of Badakhshan, located along the road connecting Faizabad with Talqan, Takhar's headquarters. Clashes had been continuing here for the last three weeks (February 29, 1988).

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attacked a mobile Soviet-Kabul force in Chakran area on January 25. They also hit a Kabul army encampment at Jalgar.

On January 28, Mujahideen clashed with Kabul government soldiers in Beshaka village. In the same area a tank was destroyed.

Soviet-Kabul forces encircled a Mujahideen "centre" at Dasht-e-Qila, on February 10: But, had to beat a retreat after suffering heavy losses. Twenty "Khad officials" and 14 troopers were killed or injured. A helicopter carrying out bombing sorties on the Mujahideen was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire. Later the Soviet aircraft attacked civilian areas in the vicinity killing and injuring several persons.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan freedom fighters in their two operations in Takhar province have destroyed two tanks of the communist troops and killed two soldiers and injured some others (February 13, 1988).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: 15 January: Mujahideen clashed with Soviet-Kabul troops in Imam Sahib area.

21 January: Government militiamen intercepted a Mujahideen caravan on Mazar Baghlan highway near Kunduz. Seven Mujahideen injured.

Radio Kabul: In Hazrat Imam district of Kunduz province, an armed gang of eighty persons has joined the national reconciliation programme. Members of district reconciliation commission and local people accorded them warm welcome (February 13, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: 14 January: Mujahideen attack a mobile military force in Baghlan city.

18 January: Mujahideen capture 18 Kabul troops in Yakhchal and Daran Sal areas.

28 January: Mujahideen attack 3 security posts in Pul-e-Kumri town.

Four government troops killed and a quantity of arms and ammunition seized.

A Soviet officer and 2 Khad agents killed during an encounter in Baghlan city.

29 January: Soviet-Kabul troops attack a Mujahideen "centre" near Khinjan town on Salang highway. They retreated after losing a tank.

31 January: Mujahideen attack a security post near Pul-e-Kumri.

On February 2, Haji Roziuddin, a Mujahideen commander, was killed while leading an attack on militia posts in Gurgurak area.

On February 4, Soviet made planes bombed Mujahideen strongholds in Sheikh Jalal and Khoh-e-Guzran areas.

On February 12, Mujahideen clashed with Soviet-Kabul troops in Khinjan area along the Salang highway and in the provincial capital Baghlan. In Baghlan the building of a security post was damaged and 4 troopers were killed. The Mujahideen also seized some arms and ammunition. In an ambush on the same day a tank and a truck were destroyed in an industrial suburb of Baghlan city.

Soviet made aeroplanes bombed villages in the Khinjan valley destroying and damaging about 200 residences. Several combatants and non-combatants were killed.

On February 13, a tank hit a land mine on the road between Baghlan Industrial Estate and Baghlan Jadid and was destroyed. Mujahideen also attacked security posts in Baghlan Jadid.

On February 19, Mujahideen frustrated a determined Soviet-Kabul assault on a Mujahideen "centre" in the vicinity of Baghlan city. Soviet-Kabul troops were pushed back after two days of fierce fighting. The invaders left behind 20 dead bodies and several injured. They also lost 3 tanks. This was the second Soviet-Kabul operation in the area after the capture, trial and execution of Baghlan Governor, Sultan Mohammad Khan, and some other officials.

VOA: Western diplomats say intense fighting between Afghan resistance units and Soviet backed forces has partially closed the main highway, linking Kabul with the Soviet Union. The Pakistan based diplomats said the fighting started last week along the Salang highway,

north of the Afghan capital. They say that the highway is a vital supply link and it has been closed for all civilian traffic. Report could not be independently confirmed and did not mention casualties (February 2, 1988).

Afghan sources in Peshawar have reported that four Soviet and Afghan military posts have been wiped out in the suburban and industrial areas of Baghlan city. Baghlan is situated on one of the two highways leading to Soviet border in the north. Experts say that if the Soviet Union started its programme of withdrawal without reaching some kind of understanding with the Mujahideen, they may be targets of such attacks. (February 23, 1988).

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: The Soviet troops attacked a centre of the Mujahideen located in Aibak, headquarter of Samangan province, February 18. The Mujahideen destroyed two vehicles of the invaders with rocket fire. The Soviets withdrew towards Samangan. Five Mujahideen were killed and 19 others injured. Soviet casualties were put at 14.

VOA: On the other highway leading to the Soviet border and passing through Samangan, a tense uncertain situation prevails. According to the Mujahideen, they have established strong bunkers near Samanagan. (February 23, 1988).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: Reports emanating from the northern territories of Afghanistan bordering on Soviet Central Asian Republics indicate that the Soviet armed forces have accelerated and widened their campaign for searching out and destroying Mujahideen centres and hideouts in the Jozjan and Balkh provinces. On February 5, they clashed with Mujahideen near Balkh city on the Mazar Shabarghan highway. Three Soviet vehicles carrying troops were hit by rockets, resulting in numerous casualties.

7 February: Mujahideen attack security post at Chuckdak.

9 February: A "high official of the Soviet Army captured (somewhere in Balkh)".

21 February: A high intensity devise exploded in a supplies depot at Hairatan destroys: 1,200 TV sets, 1,200 refrigerators and a large quantity of clothing and shoes. The loss was estimated at 65 millions Afghanis (currency). Interior Minister Gulabzai visited the area.

24 February: Mujahideen explode bombs near Bala Hessar, the building of a KHAD office damaged.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen carried out two operations

against the Soviet-Kabul forces in northern areas of Afghanistan and killed 100 communist troops.

According to a report, the dead included a senior Army Commander, a Brigadier, a Colonel and some Battalion Commanders.

In the operations carried out in Balkh province, the Mujahideen arrested ten senior officers of the Kabul Army and seized considerable quantity of equipment. (February 15, 1988).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: Soviet and Afghan troops searched for Mujahideen hideouts in various areas of Jozjan province.

VIRA: According to another report the Muslim freedom fighters blew up a gas transmission pipe line in Qarqin Woleswali of Jozjan province near the Soviet border. (February 14, 1988).

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: 15 January: Mujahideen hit 5 military installations in Daulatabad and Shirin Taghab town.

19 January: Soviet planes bombed villages north of the provincial headquarters, Mainana. Twenty five houses were demolished and several persons killed as a consequence.

12. February: Mujahideen ambush a supply convoy near Alam Khel.

VIRA: Muslim freedom fighters in a successful operation in Maimana city, killed a number of communist troops and destroyed three tanks. (February 14, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Muslim Afghan Mujahideen killed 60 communists and arrested 180 others in an operation against the Soviet-Kabul forces in Maimana city in Faryab province. According to reports, four senior advisors of the Soviet forces were seen among the dead. During the operations, Mujahideen captured 4 tanks, an armoured vehicle and considerable quantity of arms and ammunition. (February 13, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The extremist elements have once agains shown their anti Islamic and inhuman nature by firing mortar shells at the residential areas of Maimana, Faryab province.

According to a BIA report, as a result of mortar fire by these criminals, three of our compatriots were badly injured and the agricultural school and the communal mosque of that province were badly damaged.

The victims of the incident were immediately sent to the hospital and their condition is improving. (January 28, 1988).

Thirty families of our compatriots comprising 220 persons who had fled to Iran from Kabul, Herat and Faryab provinces returned to their homeland yesterday. The military correspondent of the Bakhtar reports that the returnees were provided with necessary assistance and shifted to their residential areas. (February 9, 1988).

Badghis

BIA: A 50 member armed group which was engaged in armed activity in Badghis province joined the process of national reconciliation. (February 5, 1988).

Bordering Iran

Herat (also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: 17 January: Mujahideen blast an ammunition depot in Doaab township near Herat city. Two tanks and a trailer were destroyed and 12 Kabuli troops killed or injured in fighting.

18 January: Mujahideen fire rockets on a security post in Herat city. The building sustained considerable damage and a tank and a jeep were hit. Mujahideen caputred a quantity of arms and ammunition.

20 January: Three Soviet jets were hit by 122 mm artillery at the Shindand Airbase. A number of militia posts guarding the airbase were also eliminated.

On February 1, Mujahideen attacked a security post in Band-e-Salma area.

On February 2, Mujahideen conducted a daring assault on Herat cantonment. A number of security posts and military camps were hit with rockets. During exchange of fire, the Soviet-Kabul forces erred to shell one of their own government hospitals. A tank was also destroyed by Mujahideen.

Another group of Mujahideen intercepted a military convoy in the western quarters of Herat while it was heading towards Ghowryan.

On February 12, Mujahideen attacked an army camp in Gul Bacha area of Herat city. A tank and 3 other vehicles were destroyed and a number of government troops were killed during the fighting.

On February 18, Mujahideen continued attacks in Daulatabad and Braman suburbs of Herat city. A number of militia posts were eliminated.

VIRA: Mujahideen ambushed a convoy of enemy troops on Herat Islam Qala highway recently. As a result 25 communists were killed and 4 Russian tanks were destroyed. (February 14, 1988).

Mujahideen carried out successful operations against the Commu-

nist troops, on 22nd of the current month and captured eight security posts. The Mujahideen also destroyed two tanks and two military vehicles of the communist troops and killed or wounded a number of them.

The reports say fighting is continuing in Draman and Babagi areas.

Similarly, the Mujahideen also captured another post in Guldara area, on the same date. Three militiamen of Kabul regime were injured in this operation while others managed to escape. (February 16, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The planes of the communist forces carried out heavy bombardment on residential areas in Herat and Takhar provinces killing a large number of un-armed Muslims. One hospital and some residential units were also destroyed in the bombardment. (February 15, 1988).

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries during another attack on an oil pipeline supplying oil to Shindand airport in the west of Afghanistan caused considerable losses to six military posts of communist troops in Herat province. (February 25, 1988).

VOA: A mujahideen Commander, Allauddin, coming from north western Afghanistan has reported that his men have driven out Soviet and Afghan troops from six villages near Herat. Earlier, in the beginning of this month, Mujahideen led by Commander Allauddin had captured nine military posts after heavy fighting in the suburbs of the city. (February 23, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The security forces arrested eight persons alongwith their arms belonging to an extremist group engaged in carrying out armed activities in Zindajan district of Herat province yesterday. The military correspondent of the Bakhtar News Agency reports that security forces entered the area at the request of local population and national reconciliation commission. The security forces asked the armed men to surrender but they opened fire by ignoring the appeal. The security forces retaliated as a result of which some members of the group were killed and 8 others alongwith their ring leader, Qadar, were arrested. A huge quantity of arms was also captured. (February 6, 1988).

Another 40 families of our compatriots, comprising 200 people returned to the country from Iran in Shindand Ulaswali of Heart province.

According to Bakhtar News Agency, these countrymen were sent to their native villages after being provided with necessary food stuffs. (February 6, 1988).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen waylaid a military convoy in a Farah city suburb on January 24, destroying 2 APCs and 2 trucks as well as killing or wounding 40 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. They also attacked a Soviet force in Bala Balook area, North East of Farah on January 29.

In other operations, Mujahideen hit a Soviet-Kabul transport in the vicinity of Farah on February 2 and 6.

Mujahideen sources said Soviet-Kabul authorities were massing men and materials in the Farah cantonment which the Mujahideen are trying to blockade.

KNT: An armed group, consisting of 40 members led by Pir Mohammad, who were carrying out anti state activities in the Bakwa district of Farah province, recently joined the processs of national reconciliation.

Pir Mohammad, head of the group, spoke on behalf of his group and pledged to work for ensuring peace and security in the region.

The group also surrendered a large quantity of weapons and ammunition to the security forces. (February 16, 1988).

Central Provinces

Bamiyan

(Nil report from all sources.)

Ghor

Mujahideen sources: Two Kabul government troops were killed when a vehicle they were travelling in hit a landmine planted by the Mujahideen near Chaghcharan, provincial headquarters of Ghor, on 25 January.

On February 8, Mujahideen attacked subdivisonal town of Shehrak and badly damaged its administrative buildings and military installations. A securirty post was wiped out and 5 troops killed.

Uruzgan

(Nil report from all sources.)

Kabul and Adjacent provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: 29 January: Mujahideen fire long range missiles on Kabul airport hitting an area where several aircraft were parking.

2 February: Mujahideen fire 82 mm cannon on a power supply station at Mahipur. Three security posts guarding the station damaged during fighting.

5 February: Mujahideen hit a military truck between Paghman and Kabul.

9 February: Mujahideen attack military installations in Pul-e-Charkhi area.

10 February: Soviet aircraft strafed Mujahideen centre in Deh Babz area, suburb of Kabul city. An ammunition depot of Mujahideen blasted.

14 February: Mujahideen attack security posts at Loya Dargai and Tangi in Sarobi subdivision and Shakardara. Two tanks and two other vehicles destroyed.

19 February: Eight Soviet bombers/fighters attack Mujahideen hideout in Guldara. One of the aircraft was hit with missile and seen hastening back in flames and crashed in Bagram airbase.

VIRA: Afghan Mujahideen attacked the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Gae and Tangi areas near Kabul during the current month as a result of which 28 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured while two Soviet tanks and a large quantity of military hardware were destroyed. (February 24, 1988).

A report from Kabul province says the Mujahideen attacked Pul-e-Charkhi Jail, five kilometres from Kabul city and freed 100 Mujahideen from the prison.

In another operation in the Kabul province the Mujahideen attacked the Bagram Airport destroying five Soviet planes. (February 27, 1988).

Radio Dubai: Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad have reported an increase in Afghan guerilla attacks inside the Afghan capital, Kabul. At least 8 explosions were heard during the past week in the city including one in the Soviet Embassy compound and one close to Studios of Radio Afghanistan. (February 24, 1988).

VOA: In Afghanistan, intense fighting is reported along the main highway to the Soviet Union from Kabul. *VOA's* John Shultz reports also on a recent attack on the Soviet air base at Bagram:—

Western diplomats in Islamabad report that the Salang highway to the Soviet border has been closed to traffic, at least civilian traffic, since January 28th. They also report heavy artillery and missile firing from Kabul batteries aimed at targeting north to the city. On January the 30th, some diplomats reported Soviet military police fired at civilian trucks trying to use the highway just north to the city. Afghans returning from the area report of

specially heavy fighting around Qarabagh, Shakardara, Mir Badshah Kot and Daccu. (February 3, 1988).

VOA correspondent in Islamabad Irfan Ghazi has reported that according to reports received from various parts of Afghanistan, Afghan Mujahideen have inflicted heavy losses on Soviet-Kabul troops. Here are details of the despatch:—

Afghan Mujahideen sources in Peshawar and Quetta have reported that the Mujahideen have intensified their attacks on Communist targets in entire Afghanistan because they believe that even after going back from Afghanistan, the Soviet Union would not end its control over this country. Quoting a Mujahideen commander, active around Kabul, Mansoor Ahmadzai, the Afghan Press Agency has reported that Mujahideen struggle would continue until an Islamic government is established in Afghanistan. Mujahideen led by commander Mansoor Ahmadzai have recently carried out several rocket attacks on Soviet military installations. Similarly, the Mujahideen maintained heavy pressure on two other big cities — Herat and Qandahar. (February 23, 1988).

Reports from Afghanistan said that Soviet troops have started handing over the control of some far flung security posts to Afghan government forces. Here is a report sent by VOA correspondent in Islamabad, Irfan Ghazi:—

Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad say that despite the shifting of the control of security posts, the Soviet forces still control the posts which are most important for the defence of capital Kabul. It may be recalled that Afghan Mujahideen have been carrying out rocket and bomb attacks on Kabul which are constantly increasing. Western diplomats in Islamabad said the Mujahideen contingents have intensified their activity around Kabul. They say that atleast 18 explosions were carried out in Kabul during last week out of which six were bomb blasts. One explosion occurred in the courtyard of Soviet Embassy while another took place in Afghan Radio and Television Complex. It is also said that the Afghan Mujahideen had fired rockets at the courtyard of Soviet Embassy in Kabul on February 12. Most of the rockets were fired from the south and west of the city. Earlier reports had stated that Afghan Mujahideen had been massing their troops in these two areas.

The diplomatic sources said that the Soviet troops have handed over the security of Kabul Qandahar highway to Afghan government forces. However, they said Soviet forces have been continuing their defensive role in Kabul. The Soviet artillery

stationed in the city has been severely shelling the Mujahideen positions in the South. In the meantime, the Afghan forces are strengthening their defence around Kabul in the event of Soviet pull out.

Western diplomats said the reports that the Soviet troops may leave Afghanistan, have become a cause of concern for Afghan communists in Kabul. An East European diplomat has been quoted as saying that family members of some senior members of the Communist Party and other government officials are leaving Afghanistan for Socialist countries for seeking refuge. There are constant reports that senior Afghan officials are selling their property. (February 24, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The Security forces of the country with the co-operation of peaceloving people of Paghman Wolesswali of Kabul province, have prevented a subversive act of the extremists, who wanted to fire ground to ground missiles at the residential areas of our compatriots in Kabul city. Bakhtar correspondent has reported that due to the timely action of the Security forces in Oria Khel area of Paghman Wolesswali, 12 ground to ground missiles were unearthed and seized. (February 1, 1988).

TASS: In Paghman district in Kabul province security forces, tipped off by local people, have discovered a big ammunition cache belonging to an extremist group. Bakhtar News Agency said the cache contained a large number of hand grenades, shells, cartridges and explosives.

Another group of Afghan refugees, in the meantime, has returned home from Iran. All of them were provided with material aid. After being offered a possibility to rest, all the former refugees, who numbered more than 200 people, were provided with transportation to take them to their villages.

A 50-strong armed group led by Mohammad Zarif (name as received) went over to the side of the government several days ago. Explaining his decision, he told Bakhtar News Agency:

"Like many of my compatriots, I formed a wrong idea of the situation shaping in this country initially and, deciding to fight against the infidels from Kabul and foreign occupiers, joined the Mujahideen.

"A short time later I was sent to Pakistan to receive weapons from the gang. While there, I woke up to the hard life of people separated with their fatherland.

"The plight of children is especially grave, with several kids dying at refugee camps every day because of hunger and the

absence of doctors and medicines.

"It was then that I started to ponder whether the dubious slogans of counter revolution are worth all this suffering.

"But conditions prevented us from leaving the extremists. It is only after the proclamation of a national reconciliation policy that we have finally decided to stop the senseless bloodletting". (February 9, 1988).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: A Soviet plane hit by Mujahideen missile crashes about 4 miles from Bagram air base.

31 January: Mujahideen attack security post near Bagram air base.

2 February: A post office building hit with rockets (somewhere) south of Bagram air base.

Soviet aeroplanes bombard Mujahideen centres in Soofian area. Eight Mujahideen killed and 20 injured.

3 February: Mujahideen ambush a supply convoy near Charikar. Four Kabuli troops and 3 Mujahideen killed during exchange of fire.

4 February: Mujahideen attack an army camp at Daulat Shahi. Two tanks destroyed. 1500 boxes of different kinds of ammunition blown up: and, plenty of others arms and ammunition carried off by Mujahideen.

A Soviet-Kabul mobile force heading towards Jablus Siraj attacked.

7 February: Mujahideen hit newly established security posts in Toghchi and Qalandar Khel area. Three tanks and another armoured vehicle destroyed.

9 February: Nine Soviet-Kabul troops killed by Mujahideen near Charikar city.

18 February: Mujahideen wipe out 2 security posts along the Salang highway. About 20 troops killed.

Radio Tehran: In their attacks on the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Charikar area Wednesday last, the Afghan Mujahideen occupied two military posts killing 65 Soviet-Kabul troops.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, the Afghan Mujahideen in these attacks also destroyed four Soviet tanks.

In another operation in Parwan province the Afghan Mujahideen killed 16 Soviet-Kabul troops and captured a huge quantity of arms and a wireless set. (February 6, 1988).

VOA: Fighting is also reported as far in the North as Charikot, ten kilometres west of Bagram where many Soviet aircraft are based. Resistance sources in Peshawar say Mujahideen attacked the base on January 27th using 127 milli-metre missiles and heavy cannon. They

claim to have destroyed two jet aircraft and an ammunition depot plus one armoured vehicle. Reports, that could not be independently confirmed, say the Mujahideen also hit nearby military outposts killing 3 Soviet and 5 Afghan soldiers. Retaliatory Soviet artillery fire from Bagram base hit some empty houses in a nearby village, the inhabitants had long ago fled as refugees to Pakistan. (February 3, 1988).

Radio Kabul: An armed group, engaged in armed activities in Jablus Seraj district of Parwan province announced its support to the national reconciliation policy yesterday. According to the Bakhtar News Agency report, they were warmly welcomed by the authorities and local citizens. The members of the armed group assured their full cooperation for implementing the national reconciliation programme. (February 6, 1988).

Kapisa

Mujahideen sources: 18 January: Mujahideen capture 2 security posts in Tawakh. A tank also destroyed in a separate attack on a convoy.

22 January: Two Mujahideen killed in a clash with a Soviet-Kabul mobile column near Otta Pir.

On February 2, Mujahideen attacked security posts near Najrab town. Two security posts were destroyed and 16 Kabul troops were captured. The Mujahideen seized 25 Klashnikovs rifles, a wireless set and hand grenades from the security posts.

Laghman

Radio Kabul: The security forces have also captured a consignment of weapons sent by the terrorists to Qarghai Ulaswali of Laghman province, for subversive activities. (February 3, 1988).

KNT: Armed extremist groups who disturbed the peaceful life in Maskora, Padshah Kheil and Chardehi villages of Laghman province were suppressed recently by the security forces.

Yousuf, known as Shamladar, Nami Haq, Qadir and Sabza, leaders of the groups were killed in the operations and arms and ammunition seized by the security forces. (February 15, 1988).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: 25 January: A truck belonging to a mobile military force destroyed by land mine in Burki Bak town.

On February 5, Kabuli militia troops "disguised as Mujahideen" ambushed Mujahideen going north wards through Logar in Charkh subdistrict. Some Mujahideen were captured and others killed. In

heavier fighting that followed in the area after two days nine militiamen were killed. During Soviet Kabul shelling a bus was also hit and 22 passengers killed. Soviet made planes bombarded the surrounding villages.

Radio Tehran: Two war planes of Communist troops were downed by the anti aircraft guns of freedom fighters in Logar province. (February 24, 1988).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: 22 January: Mujahideen attack a Soviet-Kabul mobile force near Otta Pur. Two mujahideen killed and 5 injured.

31 January: Mujahideen attack a military convoy near Maidan Shehr. Mujahideen capture 3 vehicles.

On February 4, an armoured vehicle and a jeep were destroyed by landmines laid by Mujahideen in Chakhcharan area. About the same-time Soviet planes straffed Mujahideen centre in Saidabad.

On February 8, Mujahideen killed a KHAD "agent" (Naik Mohammad Khan) along with 4 guards during a clash near the sub-divisional headquarter of Chakhcharan.

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below are the major Kabul Radio themes in February 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. Government of Pakistan is creating hurdles in the way of settlement of Afghan conflict, deviating from its previous stand and not cooperating seriously in the talks.
2. People from all over the world welcome Mr. Gorbachev's statement as reflective of good-will and peace in the right direction.
3. The National Reconciliation Plan shows the human and Islamic values adhered to by the Kabul government: and it has brought about changes (of attitudes) at the national and international levels.
4. Foreign intervention in Afghanistan by US, Pakistan, Iran and China, among others.
5. Geneva talks are the only method open to settle the Afghanistan issue: and the Afghan government is participating in these talks with an open heart and sincerity.

Radio Moscow:

Given below are the major Moscow media themes in February 1988 in descending order of recurrence:

1. All countries of the world applaud the Soviet initiative for the settlement of the Afghanistan issue. They are convinced that the Soviet Union wishes to resolve this problem politically.
2. Pakistan is creating hurdles in the way of signing an agreement by posing new conditions.
3. Highlighting National Reconciliation Plan that it is gaining momentum and the only way of doing away with the bloodshed and poverty.
4. Foreign intervention in Afghanistan, especially on the part of Pakistan, US, and Western countries.
5. Pakistan is acquiring military aid from the US, and the dangerous consequences of US aid on the region.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN FEBRUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	137 killed and	58 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	170 killed and	93 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	210 killed and	237 wounded
Defections	:	16 Kabul troops defected and	198 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	84 killed and	154 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	154 killed and	87 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:—

Aircraft	7	LMGs	21	Security Posts	46
Helicopters	3	HMGs	10	TV sets	1270
Tanks	45	Klashnikovs	403	Refrigerators	1200
APCs	35	Barracks	2	Tele centre	2
HMVs	59	Rocket		Building	5
Trucks	28	Launchers	1	Military installation	11
Jeeps	9	Doshaka	5	Buldozer	1
Radio sets	50	Pairs of shoes	100	Mortars Shells	500
Wireless Sets	9	Handgrenades	6	Food Depots	1
Assorted		Power supply		Sleeping bags	150
weapons	100	line	1	Munition Depot	2
Boxes of ammunition	1570				

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Ammunition dump caught fire 1

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN FEBRUARY 1988 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses inflicted to ("Counter-revolutionaries")

Human Losses:

Killed	36	
Captured	39	
Returnees		(Those availing amnesty voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance and joining Soviet-Kabul ranks).
Civilian Refugees	1468	
Armed groups	1285	

Counter Revolutionaries Material Losses:

Vehicles	5
Rocket launchers	4
Klashnikovs	8
Cartridges	2000
Ground-to-ground missiles	22
Reactivator units	3
LMGs	10
Assorted weapons	70
Boxes of Ammunition	200
Eleven different quantities of Arms and Ammunition	

Loss inflicted by "Counter-revolutionaries"

Human Losses:

Killed	1
Wounded	15

Material Losses:

Houses	10
Schools	2
Mosques	2

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN FEBRUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engage- ments	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	6	Zaranj	—	1
Hilmand	4	Lashkargarh	—	—
Qandahar	24	Qandahar	7	5
Zabul	1	Kalat Gilzai	—	—
Ghazni	5	Ghazni	1	1
Paktika	1	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	15	Gardez	—	—
Ningarhar	3	Jalalabad	—	—
Kunar	2	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	7	Faizabad	—	—
Takhar	16	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	6	Kunduz	—	—
Baghlan	33	Baghlan	7	3
Samangan	2	Samangan	1	—
Balkh	12	Mazar Sharif	1	3
Jozjan	2	Shebergan	—	—
Faryab	3	Maimana	—	—
Badghis	—	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	21	Herat	4	2
Farah	5	Farah	—	3
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	2	Chaghcharan	—	1
Uruzgan	—	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	14	Kabul	4	2
Parwan	21	Charikar	—	2
Kapisa	7	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	—	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	6	Pule Alam	—	—
Wardak	8	Kotelesro	—	2
TOTAL	226		25	25

APPENDIX — 4

MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN FEBRUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	2	—	3	1	6
Hilmand	1	—	—	3	4
Qandahar	2	14	5	3	24
Zabul	—	—	—	1	1
Ghazni	5	—	—	—	5
Paktika	1	—	—	—	1
Paktiya	10	3	1	1	15
Ningarhar	—	3	—	—	3
Kunar	1	1	—	—	2
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	7	—	—	7
Takhar	6	3	6	1	16
Kunduz	1	2	—	3	6
Baghlan	12	7	10	4	33
Samangan	1	—	—	1	2
Balkh	6	4	—	2	12
Jozjan	—	—	—	2	2
Faryab	—	—	3	—	3
Badghis	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran					
Herat	1	16	3	1	21
Farah	4	—	—	1	5
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	1	1	—	—	2
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	2	7	4	1	14
Parwan	3	15	3	—	21
Kapisa	1	5	—	1	7
Laghman	—	—	—	—	—
Logar	2	—	3	1	6
Wardak	5	2	1	—	8
TOTAL:	67	90	42	27	226

APPENDIX — 5

PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND RETURNEES IN FEBRUARY 1988 (Radio Kabul)

Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter- revolutionaries Action	Returnees numbers	Members of Armed groups surrendered
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	2	—	—	—
Qandahar	2	4	—	—
Zabul	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	—	—	—	50
Paktika	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	1	—	—	—
Ningarhar	1	—	211	—
Kunar	1	1	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	—	—	—
Takhar	—	—	—	—
Kunduz	—	—	250	687
Baghlan	—	—	—	—
Samangan	—	—	—	—
Balkh	—	—	—	—
Jozjan	—	—	—	—
Faryab	—	1	700	470
Badghis	—	—	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	4	—	200	17
Farah	—	—	107	40
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	2	—	—	21
Parwan	—	—	—	—
Kapisa	—	—	—	—
Laghman	2	1	—	—
Logar	—	—	—	—
Wardak	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	15	7	1468	1285

APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES FEBRUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses destroyed/ Damaged	Heads of Live- stocks	Date
		K	W			
Nimruz	Markali	20	—	10	—	14/2/88
Qandahar	Arghandab	16	9	—	—	14/1/88
Qandahar	Mohallajat	—	—	14	—	7/2/88
Ghazni	Shalezi	5	—	10	—	9/2/88
Paktiya	Kolalgu	7	—	12	—	16/1/88
Takhar	Dashti Qila	5	5	—	—	10/2/88
Kunduz	Subhani	—	—	5	50	13/1/88
Baghlan	Khinjan	5	5	12	—	12/2/88
Faryab	Daulatabad	24	—	25	20	19/1/88
Herat	Deh Surkh	30	70	—	—	10/1/88
Kabul	Kabul	6	—	—	—	24/1/88
Kabul	Guldara	—	—	18	—	19/2/88
Logar	Charkh	22	—	5	—	7/2/88
TOTAL 11 INCIDENTS IN 9 PROVINCES		140	89	111	70	

APPENDIX — 7

VIOLETIONS OF PAKISTAN GROUND TERRITORIES BY SOVIET KABUL ARTILLERY IN FEBRUARY 1988

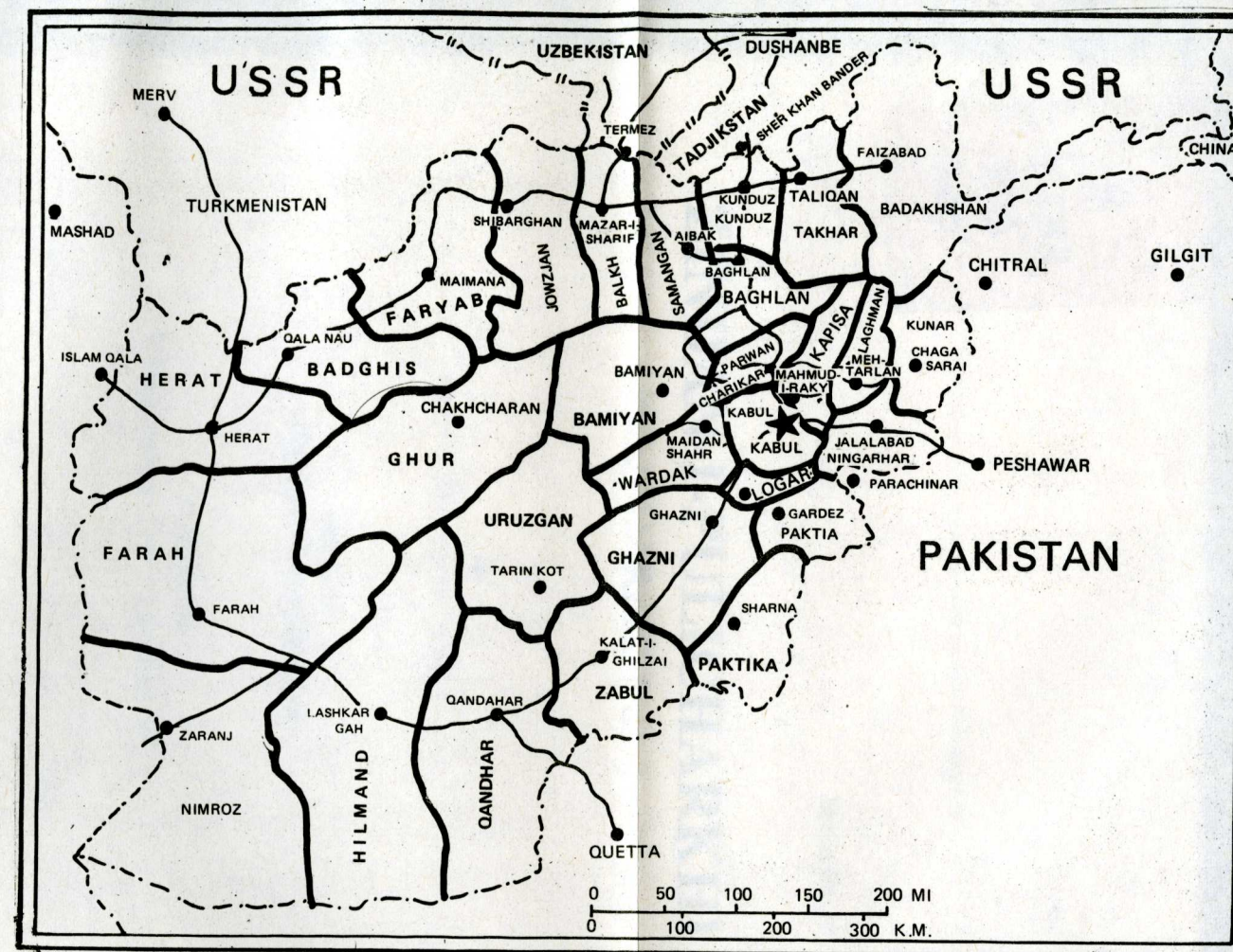
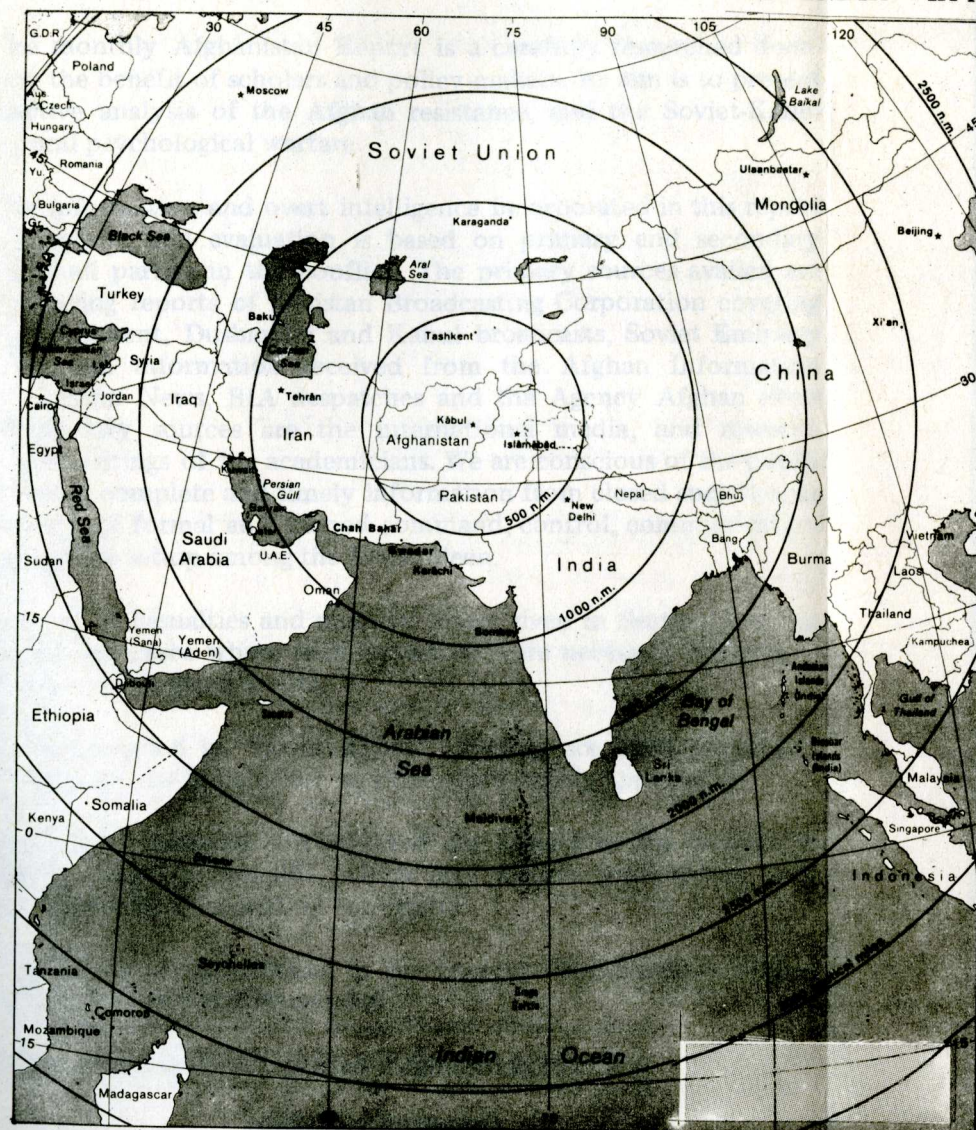
DATE (1988)	LOCATIONS	CASUALTIES		NO.OF SHELLS FIRED	SOURCE
		K	W		
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

APPENDIX — 8

VIOLETIONS OF PAKISTAN'S AIRSPACE BY SOVIET KABUL AIRCRAFT IN FEBRUARY 1988 (As per Pakistani Press Reports)

Date (1988)	LOCATIONS	No. of Air Craft	No. of Bombs	Casualties		Source
				K	W	
9/2	Bajaur Agency	2	3	—	3	FP
12/2	Chaman	2	—	—	—	MLM
21/2	N. Waziristan	6	4	—	—	MLM
21/2	N. Waziristan	8	10	—	1	MLM
24/2	Zawarkisky	3	—	7	8	FP
25/2	Mohmand Agency	12	—	1	—	DN
TOTAL 6 INCIDENTS		33	17	8	12	

APPENDIX — IX A



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during February 1988 in 25 Provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Badghis, Bamiyan, Uruzgan and Laghman.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during February 1988 in 8 provinces. These Provinces are: Hilmand, Qandahar, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunar, Herat, Kabul and Laghman.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Soviet Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, BIA despatches and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during February 1-29, 1988. Appendices 1-9 also incorporate December 1987 incidents reported in February 1988.

II. — THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — MESSAGES, VISITS AND MEETINGS

Messages

Messages on various occasions were sent to, received from and exchanged with the following countries and organizations: Angola, Czechoslovakia, India, Syria and United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Visits

The Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil left Kabul on a tour of Kuwait, Libya, Syria and Jordan, as the head of a high level delegation on February 2. He will discuss matters of bilateral relations, international issues and the process of national reconciliation being pursued by the Afghan leadership with the authorities of these countries (Radio Kabul: February 2, 1988).

This is the first time after the revolution, that an Afghan delegation of such a level is visiting the above countries.

The Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister, Syed Amanuddin Amin will visit Moscow, where he will discuss the prospects of further cooperation between the two countries including Soviet aid in developing the private sector of the Afghan economy (Radio Moscow: February 23, 88).

A Soviet delegation led by Minister of the Civil Aviation of USSR, arrived in Kabul on February 23 (*KNT*, February 24, 1988).

A delegation of the Finance Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, headed by Deputy Finance Minister arrived in Kabul for a friendly visit to the Republic of Afghanistan (Radio Kabul: February 11, 1988).

At the invitation of the Afghan Foreign Ministry, a delegation of the United Nations High Commission has arrived in Kabul for discussion about the initial assistance for the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland (Radio Kabul: February 24, 1988).

Meetings

President Najibullah on February 2, received Mr. Diego Cordovez, UN Secretary General's special envoy. Najib conferred with Cordovez on the issues pertaining to settlement of the situation around Afghanistan (*KNT*, February 3, 1988).

Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, received on February 2, Mr. Diego Cordovez, special envoy of UN Secretary General. Discussion were held on the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and matters related to the next Geneva talks (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

The Afghan President, Najibullah had a meeting with the Soviet Petroleum Minister in his office on February 2. During the meetings, views were exchanged on the Soviet help to explore gas in Afghanistan. The Afghan Premier, Mr. Sultan Ali Keshtmand also had a meeting with the Soviet Industry and Petroleum Minister on February 2 and exchanged views on technical and economic cooperation between the Soviet Industry and Gas Ministry and Afghan Industry and Mineral Ministry (*Radio Kabul*: February 3, 1988).

President Najibullah met on February 3, Mr. Vasili Chernomerdin, Minister of Gas and Industries of the Soviet Union. Mohammad Ishaq Ishaqzade, Minister of Mines and Industries, P.P. Mozaev, Soviet Ambassador and Alexander Petrov, Soviet Economic Councillor were also present. Views were exchanged on Soviet cooperation in the field of gas and petroleum exploration (*KNT*, February 4, 1988).

Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Afghan Prime Minister met on January 31, at the Council of Ministers, Mr. Q. Victorovich Bortnev, Deputy Chairman of State Building Committee of the USSR who is in Kabul on official friendly visit (*KNT*, February 1, 1988).

President Najibullah, received on February 21, a high ranking delegation of Georgian SSR led by Otari Melkadze, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic. Views were exchanged at the meeting on matters of mutual interest and on further cooperation in different spheres, between Kapisa province of Afghanistan and the Soviet Georgian Republic (*KNT*, February 22, 1988).

Najib received on February 9, in Kabul, Prof. Muzafar Ahmad, Chairman of Awami National Party of Bangladesh and discussed issues of mutual interest and realization of national reconciliation in Afghanistan. The President also received the same day, Indian Ambassador P. Khosla and briefed him on the stand of the Republic of Afghanistan regarding the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan (*KNT*, February 10, 1988).

2 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Session of the Politburo Held

A regular session of the politburo of the PDPA, CC was held on February 20, in Kabul. In line with the decision of the second national

conference of the PDPA, the politburo discussed at its meeting the issue of rendering assistance to poor families, free distribution of breakfast, uniform and stationary to school students, with the aim of improving school admissions. The politburo instructed the Council of Ministers to find resources and take steps for supplying eight items including milk, flour, sugar, cloth, uniform, footwear, stocking for the students of primary schools and stationary for all students in the new academic year. The politburo also assessed the acceleration of setting up cultural centres in the provinces. It also considered the celebration of March 8, International Day of Women. The politburo emphasized that March 8 should be marked throughout the country, under the slogan, "we the women of Afghanistan, struggle actively and unitedly for implementation of NR policy". The politburo also assessed some other domestic and international issues (*KNT*, February 21, 1988).

A Session of the Council of Ministers Held

An extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers, was held on February 17, in Kabul, presided over by Prime Minister Sultan Ali Keshtmand. Issues relating to the implementation of socio-economic development plan and state budget of the Republic of Afghanistan for the current Afghan year (ending March 19, 1988), were scrutinized. Ministers and Presidents of departments presented reports on the planned tasks (*KNT*, February 18, 1988).

Left Democratic Parties Meet

A session of the coordinating Council of Unity of left Democratic Parties of the Republic of Afghanistan, presided over by Najib, was held on February 18, in Kabul. Present at the meeting were a number of PDPA, SAZA, SZA, leaders and executive board of the council. Discussions were held on matters of common interest and decision were taken. The session ended on a note of solidarity and understanding (*KNT*, February 20, 1988).

Activists of the Armed Forces Meet

A meeting of the Party activists in the armed forces of Afghanistan was held in Star Palace on February 1. Speaking at the meeting, President Najibullah specified the duties and obligations of the party activists in the light of the decisions of the recently held plenum of the Party's CC. Najibullah said that the objectives of our vital activities are the maintenance of peace and security, formation of a coalition government and multi-party system and strengthening of the foundations of the country as a non-aligned, independent country (Radio Kabul: Feb-

ry 1, 1988).

Kabul City Party Members Meet

A session of functionaries of Kabul city party organization was held on February 1, to discuss the results of the recent plenum of the CPA CC and the future tasks. President Najibullah attended the meeting and elaborated in his speech the main directions of the resolutions of the plenum and the subsequent tasks of the Kabul City Party organization (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

UNHCR Delegation in Kabul

Mohammad Hassan Shah, Deputy Prime Minister and head of the Repatriation Department, received the delegation of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, which arrived in Kabul upon the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for talks on provision of essential aid to the refugees. They talked on concerned issues during the meeting. According to another dispatch, the UNHCR delegation met on January 24, with Farid Zareef Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (Radio Kabul: February 26, 1988).

Elections

Addressing a meeting of cotton growers of Balkh province in Far-e-Sharif on February 6, President Najibullah said, "Election rules should soon be approved and immediate steps will be taken for holding elections in the country. Without any doubt all the members of the political organizations will take part in the elections. We are going to make a goodwill gesture at the Geneva talks. We will provide opportunity for participation in coalition government as well as in the elections". He also referred to the measures taken by the government to boost agricultural production (Radio Kabul: February 6, 1988).

Afghan Charge d' Affairs Disappeared

Afghan Charge d' Affairs Mohammad Nazir Fedai has disappeared in the Italian capital Rome. The Italian Foreign Office has confirmed his disappearance on February 23. Mr. Nazir had been sent to Rome in January 1987. Meanwhile, an Italian daily had reported that Afghan Ambassador in Rome handed over a brief note to the Italian Foreign Office stating that henceforth the Afghan authorities do not consider Mr. Nazir as their representative as they strongly believe that he has taken refuge in the west (Radio Tehran: February 24, 1988).

Najib Will Not Resign

The Chairman of Afghanistan's High Commission for National Reconciliation has announced that President Najibullah is not prepared to resign, in response to demands from the resistance movement for a peace settlement (Radio Netherlands: February 11, 1988).

Cordovez Expresses Hopes For An Early Settlement

The UN negotiator has returned from his second round of talks in Kabul, on February 2, he met Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Zain Noorani and later talked separately to the US and Soviet Ambassadors in Islamabad. Foreign Ministry sources say, the issue that complicate the next round of settlement talks in Geneva are the question of some sort of temporary government in Afghanistan and details of the proposed Soviet troops withdrawal plan. Mr. Cordovez has made two trips and has been in Islamabad three times since January 20th (VOA, February 3, 1988).

Mr. Diego Cordovez has expressed the hope that some kind of agreement could be arrived at the Geneva proximity talks. He said the United Nations has started preparations to appoint its observers on both sides of the Pak-Afghan border to monitor the implementations of the agreement. Mr. Cordovez hoped that the observers would be sent to the border few days before the enforcement of the agreement (BBC, February 25, 1988).

Mr. Cordovez has said that from the moment the Soviet leader took office, he has showed his determination to end Russia's war in Afghanistan. He said that Mr. Gorbachev's offer to start pulling out the Red Army in May has been extremely positive and helpful. According to Mr. Cordovez both sides wanted a settlement but neither side trusted the other (BBC, February 11, 1988).

Soviet Union Announced Date for Withdrawal of Troops

General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has said the Soviet and Afghan governments have agreed to start withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan from May the 15th, to complete the withdrawal within ten months. He stressed that the concrete date was set to facilitate a speedy and successful conclusion of the Afghan Pakistan talks in Geneva, where the drafting of documents covering all points of a settlement has been almost completed. The USSR and Afghanistan expect the signing of the accords to take place earlier than March the 15th, the withdrawal of Soviet troops would begin earlier. Mikhail Gorbachev noted that the Soviet soldiers have been honestly fulfilling their duty in Afghanistan and the people profoundly respected them.

mories of those who have died are sacred to us, he said. Gorbachev
ke highly of the national reconciliation policy being pursued by the
han leadership. "The Afghan themselves would determine their
ntry's final status" We will be glad, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed to
e in our southern frontiers a peaceful Afghanistan which will be an
ependent, non-aligned and neutral state (Radio Moscow: February
988).

A Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Anatoli Kovaryev (ph) had
cribed Mr. Gorbachev's latest offer to start withdrawing troops from
hanistan as a unique opportunity to end the Afghan conflict. Mr.
aryev told a news conference in Moscow that the offer was aimed
changing abruptly the course of one of the world's most bitter re-
nal conflicts. He said that the chance should not be missed and that
re was little to do at the Geneva talks beyond signing various docu-
nts he added (BBC, February 9, 1988).

Pakistan to Intensify its Efforts to Achieve an early Settlement

Addressing a press conference, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Mr.
n Noorani said that Soviet leader's statement would encourage
es for an early settlement of the Afghan problem. For its part, he
Pakistan was ready to intensify its own efforts to achieve a settle-
nt. The unresolved issue now is the formation of a broadbased coali-
government in Kabul which Mr. Noorani described as an indispen-
e aspect of a settlement. But that is not formally included in the
eva process (BBC, February 9, 1988).

A meeting took in Islamabad between the Pakistani President Zia-
laq and the visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov.
y discuss measures to settle the situation involving Afghanistan. The
iet envoy arrived in Pakistan after Mikhail Gorbachev's statement
Afghanistan was issued in Moscow. He said that the Soviet Union
Afghanistan had agreed to begin the withdrawal of Soviet troops
n Afghanistan on May 15th and to complete it within ten months.
procedure of withdrawal will be supervised by United Nations
tary personnel (Radio Moscow: February 11, 1988).

Pakistan Insists on Interim Government

Speaking to reporters, the Pakistani Foreign Minister Mr. Zain
orani has warned, that there could be a bloody civil war in Afghanis-
if Moscow withdraws its troops and leaves a Soviet backed govern-
nt in power. Mr. Noorani said that if the present government
ft in charge in Kabul the resistance will not accept a ceasefire and
will lead to a bloody civil war. Then not only some three million

refugees who had fled after the 1979 Soviet invasion, will not return home but it will increase the number of refugees in Pakistan as more Afghan will leave their country (Radio Dubai: February 20, 1988).

Mr. Zain Noorani, said in an interview referring the meetings with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister that the talks have been very good and that "Mr. Vorontsov did not differ too much with the idea of formation of an interim government, but he says whatever is to be done should be done before March 15". He said "we want to make it clear to them (Soviets) that there is a need of an agreement which could be implemented and there would be no use of signing the paper only".

In his interview Mr. Zain Noorani said, Pakistan and the Soviet Union should use their influence on the Afghans from both sides, to persuade them to form an interim government, a transitional government as soon as possible and that as far as we (Pakistan) are concerned we stand by the Geneva proposals. However, he warned, Pakistan realizes that before the implementation of Geneva agreement it is essential to bring about a change in the Kabul government, because if the agreement reached then the present Kabul government would not be capable of its implementation. Mr. Zain Noorani said, Pakistan agrees with this view of Soviet Union that Pakistani and Russian governments cannot dictate the Afghan people as to what type of interim government they should form. However, they can persuade the Afghan people to conclude an agreement. Pakistan thinks that it can be done by the middle of March. Mr. Zain Noorani said, Pakistan has told the Russians that the key clause of the proposed Geneva agreement is that such a conducive situation should be created in which Afghan refugees could return to their homeland in an honourable and orderly manner and this requires a change in the Kabul government.

Mr. Noorani said Pakistan is not only interested in pull-out of Soviets but also in the return of nearly thirty lakh Afghan refugees, presently living in the country.

Afghan Resistance (Interim Government)

The Seven party political alliance of the Afghan Resistance Movement in Pakistan has announced that it will form a new Government of Afghanistan. This announcement which was made in Peshawar on 31st January, is the outcome of the latest meeting of the leaders of alliance. The announcement says that the alliance will set up a government headed by the Mujahideen even before the pullout of the Soviet troops and that this government will consist of the Afghan refugees and the Muslim citizens living in Afghanistan. The announcement say that the first and foremost task before this government will be to create condi-

ons for the pullout of the Soviet troops, establish peace, make arrangements for the return home of nearly five million Afghan refugees and reconstruct the war-battered Afghanistan. The announcement appeals to foreign governments and institutions to provide help in the reconstruction work. The announcement once again rejected the idea of formation of a coalition government in collaboration with Communists and Atheists (VOA, January 31, 1988).

The seven party alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen has agreed upon the Head of the proposed interim government.

Engineer Ahmed Shah has been nominated as Head of the proposed interim government. He is the number two man in a component party of the alliance led by Prof. Abdul Rasool Sayyaf. The formula presented by the seven party alliance following two-week discussions regarding the establishment of the transitional government in Afghanistan before the withdrawal of Soviet troops, besides other things, also suggests the constitution of a Supreme Council and a 28 member cabinet. The Supreme Council will comprise all seven heads of the alliance parties while fifty per cent of the cabinet will consist of Mujahideen and its remaining half will be picked from Afghan refugees and Muslims in Afghanistan. The Mujahideen are still formulating some details of the formula.

However, in the meantime, Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar of Jib-e-Islami proposed the name of Engineer Ahmed Shah as head of the proposed interim government and all other leaders approved it.

At present, Mr. Ahmed Shah is incharge of Financial and Foreign Affairs Committee in Prof. Abdul Rasool Sayyaf's party. He is 43 and after obtaining B.Sc. Engineering degree from Kabul University, he did M.Sc. in Civil Engineering from an American University. Mr. Ahmed Shah knows many languages and fluently speaks Pushto, Persian, Arabic and English. He has been teaching in Faisal University Saudi Arabia for some time. Since the time of his studentship, he has been participating in the Islamic movement in Afghanistan. In April 1978, after the communist revolution, he came to Pakistan and has been playing an active role in the resistance movement. He remained for some time in the Jamiat Islami of Prof. Burhanuddin but later, joined the party of Prof. Abdul Rasool Sayyaf (VOA, February 26, 1988).

The Soviet Union has rejected the proposal by the Afghan guerilla alliance for an interim government in Kabul to oversee the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Moscow Mr. Gennadi Grasimov said that it would be an artificial structure and was an attempt to undermine the Geneva talks (BBC, February 5, 1988).

Rabbani in Iran

The Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan Chief Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived in Tehran on February 26, to discuss the Afghanistan problem in the wake of the recent developments and changes. Announcing the aim of his visit, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always adopted very positive and clear cut stand about Afghanistan dispute. While paying homage for the sincere support of the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Islamic Jihad of the Afghans, Burhanuddin Rabbani said that Iran has a positive and sensitive role to play in deciding Afghanistan problem (Radio Tehran: February 27, 1988).

US Guarantee Conditional

The United States has reiterated its conditions for becoming a guarantor to the agreement for restoration of peace in Afghanistan. On February 11, a spokesman of the American State Department told newsmen that the United States offered to become a guarantor to the Afghan settlement on the condition that such a settlement would help achieve four objectives. These objectives are final and complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops, neutrality of Afghanistan the right of self-determination to the people of Afghanistan and return home of more than 5 million Afghan refugees. Last month (January 1988) the American Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz said that the period for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops should be fixed and that this withdrawal should be irrevocable (VOA, February 12, 1988).

Iranian Views on Troops Withdrawal

The Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati expressed his views on the Soviet decision about withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan. He said that Iran had said at the early stage of the Afghan conflict that giving right of self-determination to Afghan people without any foreign interference would be the only guarantee for the future of Afghanistan. He maintained that Iran opposes all talks on Afghanistan problem without the participation of the Afghan people. He further said that Iran wanted that Afghans should be included as a party in these talks (Radio Tehran: February 19, 1988).

Indian Views

The Indian Prime Minister Mr. Gandhi has called for an end to all foreign interference in Afghanistan, once there has been withdrawal of all Soviet troops from the country. In an address to members of his

Congress "I" in New Delhi Mr. Gandhi said he wanted to see Afghanistan to distance itself from both superpowers (Radio Australia: February 22, 1988).

3 — NATIONALITIES POLICY

A jirga of residents of Kholm district, Balkh province was held in support of NR and to discuss local problems, attended by over 500 elders and peoples representatives. Mohammad Sharif, Secretary of Balkh provincial committee, announced the Presidential decree on annexation of Kholm district to Balkh province and promised the further party and government assistance for the socio-economic process of Kholm (*KNT*, February 18, 1988).

A tribal unit of Pashaie nationalities of the Alishing district, Badghis province was set up on February 13, in a function. Sulaiman Azeq, Minister of tribal affairs spoke on national reconciliation policy and the policy of PDPA, towards nationalities and tribes (*KNT*, February 14, 1988).

Elders and Chieftains of different tribes of Badghis province declared Qalai-e-Naw as a peace region in a tribal jirga held on February 1 (*KNT*, February 22, 1988).

The Council of Ulema and Clergymen

Over 35,000 ulema, clergymen and imams of the country are organized in the high council of ulema and clergymen. The council renders valuable service for the improvement of their life. The council is a religious and social organization. It was established in 1980. Eighty are permanent members, 23 members of the executive committee and five members of supervisory committee were elected in the third conference of the council, which was held in 1986. About 400 to 900 ulema and clergymen from different provinces of the country are sent abroad every year for exchanging views with ulema and clergymen of Islamic countries, 47 ulema and clergymen are mobilized in the commission for NR of this council. They have gone 97 times to 27 provinces of the country, to explain the holy religion of Islam and the programmes of NR. Over 31,000 publicity leaflets have so far been distributed by this commission in the sub-districts and provinces of the country. 215 letters have been sent to compatriots who are living abroad. As a result, 1,000 ulema and clergymen have returned to the country. They have received also the membership cards of this council (*KNT*, February 10, 1988).

Mosques

The foundation stone of the congregational mosque of Karti Parsa, Mazar-e-Sharif city was laid in a ceremony on February 16. A spokesman of the Islamic Affairs and religious trusts department of the Balkh province said, that the mosque building constructed at a cost of 762,000 Afghanis from State Budget, will accommodate 1,000 preachers. He added that nine mosques have been built at a cost of 4,000,000 Afghanis and 21 mosques and takias were repaired during March-December 1987 (*KNT*, February 17, 1988).

Three mosques were built, 11 mosques repaired and painted at a cost of over 87,00,000 Afghanis in Kunduz province during the current Afghan year (begun 21 March 1987). Over 570,000 Afghanis were distributed in cash to ulema, clergy and preachers of the mosques during the same period. Also coupons foodstuffs and consumer goods were distributed to 170 preachers of the mosques (*KNT*, February 9, 1988).

The repairs of the Mosques of the Holy Kherqa in Qandahar city begun a few months ago has been furnished with carpets valued at 2 million Afghanis by the State (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

4 – ECONOMY

The standing commission of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers, on private, domestic and foreign investment met on February 4, with Syed Ammanuddin Amin, First Deputy Prime Minister in the Chair. The session approved 14 projects proposed by the private entrepreneurs with an initial capital of 276 million Afghanis and a working capital of 611 million Afghanis in the spheres of foodstuffs, metal works, construction, pharmaceuticals, leather industry, installation of agricultural pumps and technical transport services. The session also approved 16 joint Afghan-Soviet projects for production of foodstuffs in the private sector, using the 50 million rouble credit of the Soviet Union (*KNT*, February 6, 1988).

A high level Soviet delegation of Industries and Gas Ministry led by Shirney Mizdinvitor (ph) which arrived in Kabul on February 1, had a meeting with the Minerals and Industry Minister of Afghanistan, Ishaq Kawa in his office. According to the Bakhtar News Agency, the Soviet delegation was apprised of activities of the Ministry of Minerals and Industry. The Soviet delegation assured full cooperation in this field (Radio Kabul: February 2, 1988).

Agreements and Protocols

An agreement was signed recently in Hairatan between Commerce

istry of Afghanistan and Railway Department of Soviet Central, to lay down railway line from the Central Soviet Republic to atatan for the transportation of luggage (Radio Kabul: February 10, 1988).

A protocol on technical cooperation between Kabul Municipality Techno-Struo Export of the Soviet Union was signed on February in Kabul. According to the protocol, the Soviet Union will help in providing technical equipment of Micro-rayon and extension of the services of the Soviet experts (*KNT*, February 8, 1988).

A protocol on scientific and technical cooperation between the Building Committee of the Soviet Union and the construction ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan was signed in Kabul on February 1. Based on the protocol the State Building Committee of the USSR will assist Afghanistan in training professional cadres and to help the competency of Afghan engineers (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

A high ranking Czechoslovak delegation headed by the Deputy Finance Minister of that country held talks with Afghan authorities for a series of economic and commercial matters. During the meeting, a protocol dealing with the development of commerce and economic cooperation between the two countries was concluded (Radio Kabul: February 15, 1988).

Agreements and Protocols Under Direct Cooperation Programme

A delegation of Kirgis-SSR led by Asseino Mukun Asseinovich, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic, arrived in Kabul for an official and friendly visit on February 23. Later the delegation met Sayed Ikram Paiger, Minister for direct cooperation. Also present at the meeting were Governors of Bamiyan and Wardak provinces. They discussed expansion of direct cooperation between Kirgis-SSR Bamiyan and Wardak provinces (*KNT*, February 24, 1988).

A delegation of Samangan province, ended its visit to Tashkent, Uzbek-SSR) with the signing of a protocol on cooperation. Under the protocol, Uzbek-SSR will assist Samangan province in equipping a hospital, Kindergarten, a unit for producing construction material, power transmission line and drilling tube wells (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

A direct cooperation protocol was concluded on February 22 in Tashkent between the Georgian SSR and Kapisa province of Afghanistan. The Georgian SSR will under the protocol assist Kapisa province in the spheres of agriculture, public health, communications, light industries and education (*KNT*, February 23, 1988).

A direct cooperation protocol was signed on February 1, between Paktiya, Paktika provinces and Khost division and Uzbek-SSR (*KNT*,

February 2, 1988).

A protocol on direct cooperation was signed on February 1, in Kabul between Kazakh-SSR and Qandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

Projects Under Direct Cooperation Programme

Seven tube wells have been drilled during the period March-December 1987 in Balkh province. A spokesman of the department of Irrigation said, that based on the direct cooperation of Uzbek-SSR with the northern provinces of Afghanistan, the survey for drilling 14 new deep wells have been completed and one has already been drilled during the same period (*KNT*, February 4, 1988).

A joint delegation of experts of gas distribution and cinematography of Farghana (Uzbek-SSR) has arrived in Jozjan province. Preliminary survey for liquid petroleum gas distribution to Sheberghan cities from Farghana province has been completed, according to which in the first phase, gas will be distributed to 100 families and in the second phase to 1,000 families (*KNT*, February 4, 1988).

The drilling work of two deep wells started earlier by the drilling team of Surkhan Darya province of Uzbek-SSR in Mazar-e-Sharif was recently completed. The wells were commissioned in a function and the work on which was carried out under the direct cooperation have a capacity of supplying 20-30 litres of water per second (*KNT*, February 17, 1988).

Projects

42 projects of private entrepreneurs, with an initial investment of Afghanis 239 million, were commissioned during the Afghan year (ending March 19, 1988) in the capital and provinces of the country. A spokesman for the department said that Hamayoon textile mill, Barakat plastic factory, Paktiya handicraft enterprise, Ningarhar plastic factory, Noor plastic factory and other small and big projects are included among the above projects. The department has so far registered 308 projects in the private sector, throughout the country, the spokesman added (*KNT*, February 27, 1988).

Over 17 joint companies as well as 80 individual entrepreneurs are organized in Kunduz Chamber of Commerce and Industries. To meet the needs of the people of Kunduz, province over 15 million Afghanis have been invested by joint companies and 16 million Afghanis by individual traders. Over 11 small and big private projects are under construction in the province, utilizing the credit of the Soviet Union (*KNT*, February 3, 1988).

Dawlatzai raisin processing factory with an initial investment of 345,000 Afghanis, was inaugurated on February 25, in the industrial estate of Pul-e-Charkhi, Kabul. The factory was inaugurated by the Deputy Minister of Food and Light Industries (*KNT*, February 28, 88).

The foundation stone of the 7th power junction was laid on February 18, in the premises of the Ministry of Power Energy. The equipment of this project, the total cost of which is estimated at 33 million Afghanis, is to be financed from the development budget of the German Democratic Republic (*KNT*, February 20, 1988).

Construction

The mortgage and construction Bank has raised this year, the granting of loans sanctioned to individuals, to 250,000 Afghanis. The Bank gives loan on low interest to workers, state employees, servicemen, retired personnel etc. Who own or want to build houses, in one of the city projects. State and social organizations can also receive loans from the Bank. Repayment period is three years on instalments. During the period May 1987–January 1988, the Bank had advanced over 59 million Afghanis, achieving an increase of 40 per cent, in plan implementation. Loans repaid, exceed 44 million Afghanis in the same period, showing an increase of 9% (*KNT*, February 16, 1988).

The building of the telephone exchange with 3,000 lines will be constructed at a cost of Afghanis 8 million in Qandahar. The said unit had been destroyed during the war. It will be completed by the end of 1988. The cost of equipment for the unit is met from the Soviet gratis aid. Presently a 200 lines automatic telephone unit is functioning in Qandahar province (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

A water supply scheme executed at a cost of 3.2 million Afghanis has been commissioned recently in Spin Buldak district Qandahar province. According to a spokesman of rural water supply department, the scheme will provide drinking water to 2,000 residents of the districts of Qandahar (*KNT*, February 11, 1988).

45 k.m. of roads in the centre and other areas of Parwan province have been macadamized during the period March 1987–January 1988 (*KNT*, February 6, 1988).

Industrial Production

The Bagrami textile mill produced 11,870,630 metres of cotton textiles, marking 11% increase over the plan target in the period between March–December 1987 (*KNT*, February 24, 1988).

Milli Shoes Factory, now functioning in the private sector, has

produced in the eleven months of the current Afghan year (ending March 19, 1988) over 500 thousand pairs of shoes valued at over 600 Afghanis. This factory produces daily over 1,000 pairs of leather shoes for men, women and children for supplying to the various institutions and markets (*KNT*, February 27, 1988).

The factory of Iron concrete pipes of the Ministry of Construction Affairs has started its annual production of 30 k.m. concrete pipes of various sizes. The factory produces 400—1,000 mm of concrete pipes without spurs which are used for water supply and canalization of the city (*KNT*, February 22, 1988).

The Kabul Bakery over fulfilled its plan by 11% during the period between March-November 1987, registering an increase of 8% over the corresponding period in 1986. According to the President of Kabul Bakery, the production of the enterprise during the period was 124,000 tons of flour and bread (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

Aid and Relief Goods Distribution

The Soviet Union has given this year, (ending 19 March 1988) over 17 million dollars aid to Kabul Municipality. The sum which accounts for 44% development budget of Kabul Municipality has been spent for building residential blocks in Micro-ryan, Kindergartens, expansion of Prefabricated Housing Complex, construction and asphaltting of roads, establishment of markets, and other civic services. Currently, over 70 Soviet experts are cooperating with the construction establishments of the country (*KNT*, February 25, 1988).

Peace and Solidarity Committee of the German Democratic Republic will donate a large quantity of foodstuffs and medicines to Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan. Documents to this effect were exchanged between Sayed Amman-uddin Amin Deputy Prime Minister of the RA and the GDR Ambassador to Kabul (*KNT*, February 1, 1988).

Consumer goods and foodstuffs costing over 14,500,000 Afghanis were distributed to the people of Hilmand province through 17 consumer and handicraft stores during the months of July-September 1987 (*KNT*, February 6, 1988).

14 items of foodstuff and consumer goods arrived recently in Mahmoud Raqi, Centre of Kapisa province from Georgian SSR, were distributed to deserving families (*KNT*, February 22, 1988).

Relief goods including footwear, garments, sports equipment, beds, mattresses, blankets and toys, valued at 400,000 roubles were donated by the Soviet Union to Watan Children Home (*KNT*, February 16, 1988).

Export

Aryoubi Afghan Exports raisin processing company exported this year (ending March 19, 1988), 300 tons of raisin valued at 270,000 dollars to London. A spokesman for the company said that 600 tons of raisin of the agricultural cooperatives of Kapisa province were also processed and exported this year by the company to foreign countries (*KNT*, February 27, 1988).

Transport

By transporting 99,200 tons of goods during March-November 1987, from Hairatan port to the capital, Kamaz No. 4 enterprise implemented its plan target by 114.9%. It shows an increase of 128.6% as compared to the same period in 1986 (*KNT*, February 3, 1988).

Soviet Afghan Space Mission

Names of those Afghans have been announced who are taking part in the joint Soviet-Afghan space mission. They are military pilots: Colonel Mohammad Doran and Major Abdul Ahad. One of them will take part in the space flight which will take place in August this year. The programme of this mission includes exploration of the surface of earth, taking photographs of several areas of Afghanistan and scientific experiments. Both the Afghan pilots have full command on Russian language which facilitates preparation for the flight (Radio Moscow: February 13, 1988).

Agriculture

To assist peasants and agricultural cooperatives, the Agricultural Development Bank has reduced the interest rates of loans. The interest on short term loans of less than one year has been reduced from 10% to 9% and the interest on long term loans of more than five years from 8% to 7%, said a spokesman of the bank. He added that the ADB, has advanced over 277 million Afghanis, in loans to peasants this year (*KNT*, February 20, 1988).

Qargah fishing project, has started a project with the assistance of UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Qargah. The construction of three earth dams adjacent to existing dams and one food storage has started. With completion of this project a large quantity of fish will be offered to Kabul citizens, a spokesman of the department disclosed (*KNT*, February 3, 1988).

Wheat, barley, maize and other cereals have been grown on 3,550 hectares of land during the autumn sowing campaign, in the Ningarhar

province. Around 7,670 tons of fertilizer, and 174 tons of improved wheat seeds and pesticides, insecticides valued at Afghanis 2,7000,000 were distributed to individual peasants and members of the agricultural cooperatives of the province during the autumn campaign (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

The construction of a mechanized agricultural station was launched on February 1, in Kunduz province. The station is located 2 k.m. away from Kunduz city. It is being built at a cost of nine million Afghanis from the state's development budget and over 222 million from the Soviet assistance (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

The construction of model Agricultural Cooperative of Dawlat Abad village of Hazrat-e-Imam sub-district, Samangan province has started. The building of the cooperative will be built at a cost of three million Afghanis from the state budget and will start functioning next year (*KNT*, February 21, 1988).

20,033 tons of fertilizer, 10,025 tons of improved wheat seeds and pesticide, costing over five million Afghanis, were distributed to the peasants of Herat province, after the proclamation of NR policy. Of these, 867 tons of fertilizer and 42 tons of improved wheat seeds were distributed free to the repatriates, who had returned home under the NR policy. A spokesman of the Agriculture and land reforms department of Herat province said, that 257 tons of cotton seeds and 578 tons of fertilizer were also distributed free to the peasants during the same period. 810 tons of cotton have been brought from the growers, since the beginning of the cotton purchase campaign (*KNT*, February 20, 1988).

Over 19,300 hectares of land were cultivated during the autumn campaign of current Afghan year (begin March 21, 1987) by the agricultural mechanized station of Kabul province. The station which has 35 tractors, 4 combines and agricultural vehicles, was set up with the assistance of the Soviet Union (*KNT*, February 9, 1988).

5 — EDUCATION, YOUTH AND HEALTH

Seminars held

A seminar entitled Role of Technology in Vocational Education which was organized recently by the department of Higher and Vocational Education Ministry, with the assistance of Geothe Institute in Kabul, ended on February 17. 56 teachers from electro-mechanical technicum, construction, agricultural, light and foodstuff industry technicums and the secondary technical school, attended the five day seminar (*KNT*, February 22, 1988).

A Seminar of Asian Students Information Centre (ASIC) on education, development and society, opened on February 12, in Kabul. 40 delegations from 32 national, international and regional youth and student organizations from 19 Asian and European countries, are attending the seminar. Delegations have come from the Soviet Union, Bangladesh, Nepal, DPRK, Iran, Pakistan, Vietnam, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Palestine, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, GDR, Labenon, Mongolia, Poland and Bulgaria (*KNT*, February 13, 1988).

Literacy Programme

Seven literacy courses were newly set up in Pul-e-Khumri textile mill, a total of 150 men and women are attending these courses. A spokesman for the literacy department of Baghlan province said, that 20 literacy courses attended by 520 learners, are now functioning in the mill (*KNT*, February 1, 1988).

312 students are attending the Training functional literacy school. So far, 138 students have graduated from the eighth class. They have been introduced to various vocational and non-vocational schools to continue their studies there (*KNT*, February 6, 1988).

Technical and Vocational Education

The tailoring vocational school of Khair Khana Mena was opened on February 17, in Kabul city. The school which has been set up at a cost of 202 million Afghanis, spent from the assistance of UNICEF, has enrolled over 100 graduates of literacy courses both boys and girls. Apart from regular subjects, from fifth up to eighth grade the students learn tailoring as their major vocational subjects. This is the second of such schools. The first one was set up this year in Sayed Noor Mohammad Shah Mena, it has a strength of 100 students (*KNT*, February 18, 1988).

According to the present plan, over ten new technical and professional schools will be set up in the capital and provinces and over 5,000 students would be trained there. 30 million roubles as gratis aid will be rendered by the Soviet Union for construction of these schools (*KNT*, February 23, 1988).

New Schools

Six new schools at a cost of 275 million Afghanis, were built in the various areas of Kabul city, during the period between March-December 1987. The modern schools are well equipped. They have been designed by the construction unit of Ministry of Education (*KNT*, February 6, 1988).

Publications

Over 147 books with a circulation of 6,000 volumes, were published during the current year by the compilation and translation department of the Ministry of Education to be distributed to students and teachers of the schools in the new academic year. The department has provided books for eleven classes of schools in the new system of education and distributed them to schools all over the country. In the new academic year, social subject, army education and the art of calligraphy have been introduced as subjects. 511 volumes with a circulation of 21,543,294 copies have been published since 1987. In all, over 18 million books were distributed to schools in the provinces. 62 volumes were published in Uzbeki, Turkmani and Baluchi languages and distributed to the students, who wish to read them in their mother tongue. The department has so far published 91 different method and guide books for teachers (*KNT*, February 17, 1988).

It is envisaged that 180 text books in over 5 million copies will be published this year by the compilation and translation department, of the Ministry of Education press, party press and state printing house. During the period March-September 1987, a total of 130 books in 4 million copies were printed. 20 new departments in which 75 authors and specialists work, were established recently in the Ministry of Education for compilation of text book on national and social sciences, languages and literature. The books are published in national language (*KNT*, February 7, 1988).

The Islamic Studies Centre has purchased 900 volumes of different scientific and Islamic books, at a cost of 500,000 Afghanis for its library (*KNT*, February 11, 1988).

Youth

President Najibullah addressed on February 1, the activists of primary units of the DYOA of Kabul, and underlined the Youth's tasks in the realization of the policy of NR for achieving peace in the country. He elaborated on the achievements and objectives of the new policy and the decisions of the recent plenum of the PDPA CC. Evaluating the activity of the DYOA, the President spoke on the grave tasks facing the youth in achieving national reconciliation (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

Democratic Youth Organization

The Central Committee of the DYOA, is closely watching the process of normalization of situation around Afghanistan as well as the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The CC of the DYOA has expressed confidence that with the return of Foreign Military Units

to their country, heavy responsibilities will be on the shoulders of the Youths and members of the Afghan Democratic Youth Organization (Radio Kabul: February 26, 1988).

24 DYOA primary organizations with a strength of 500 youth have recently been established in the provincial committee of Faryab DYOA. A spokesman of Faryab DYOA provincial committee said, that during the current Afghan year, (begun 21 March 1988) over 1,000 youth have voluntarily joined the ranks of revolution defence groups, soldiers of revolution and armed forces of the country. Presently there are over 3,000 youth enrolled in 131 DYOA primary organizations in the centre and other areas of Faryab province (*KNT*, February 7, 88).

Eleven primary youth organizations with a membership of 165 students, were set up in the centre and other areas of Ghazni province during the period March 1987–January 1988. Similarly, 112 youth joined the armed forces and 102 primary organization with 2,337 members in Ghazni province (*KNT*, February 4, 1988).

Youth Joined Armed Forces

105 youth of Badghis province recently voluntarily enlisted in the armed forces. In the months of March–December, 1987, 1,166 youth of the province have come to the commissariat of the province and volunteered to serve in border detachments (*KNT*, February 7, 1988).

100 youth of Mirbachakot district, Kabul province, who were previously engaged in armed activities have voluntarily joined the armed forces of the country (*KNT*, February 15, 1988).

Health — Assistance in Health Sector

A protocol on direct cooperation was signed on February 16, between the public health departments of Logar and Ghor provinces of Afghanistan and the Armenian-SSR of the Soviet Union. Based on the protocol, the Armenian-SSR will assist in construction and equipping of the 100 bed hospital in Ghor province. One paramedical school, housing 50 students, will be built in Logar province by the Armenian Republic. Mobile medical groups will also be sent to various districts of the two provinces, one physician and four medical personnel will be trained every year in one of the medical institutes of Armenian Republic (*KNT*, February 17, 1988).

Kurghan Tapa province of Tajikistan-SSR, delivered this year (ending March 19, 1988) to Kunduz province, medical instruments and equipment valued at 79,000 roubles, under the protocol of direct co-operation signed earlier by the two provinces (*KNT*, February 24, 88).

Medicines and medical equipment valued at over ten million

roubles were donated this year (ending March 19, 1988) by the Soviet Union to the health institutions and hospitals of Afghanistan (*KNT*, February 28, 1988).

Campaign Against Malaria and Intestinal Diseases

The Institute for campaign against Malaria and Parasitology of the Ministry of Public Health, jointly with the cooperation of WHO, has launched a campaign against intestinal parasites. According to the Institute's sources, during the current Afghan year (ending March 19, 1988), it was able to cure intestinal diseases of over 15 thousand persons. The Institute has a staff of 1,264 and several departments (*KNT*, February 20, 1988).

With the spread of malaria in Ningarhar province ten teams, consisting of 45 persons and equipped with necessary medicines, went to Ningarhar province one month ago. They have so far treated 43,968 persons (*KNT*, February 6, 1988).

Medicines Confiscated

Three types of medicines, including tablets and capsules detrimental to the health of the people and valued at 390,000 Afghanis, have been confiscated by the pharmaceutical department and security forces from those who sold them in the streets of Kabul city (*KNT*, February 27, 1988).

6 — SOCIAL AND CULTURE

Women's Clubs and Councils

Close to 150,000 housewives and young women are organized in different sections of the Women's Central Club. Currently there are 11 Women's Clubs in the 11 precincts of Kabul city and six clubs in the districts of Kabul province. They provide training to women in tailoring, carpet weaving, handicrafts embroidery, home science, painting, calligraphy, typing etc. These products include children's cloths, table cloth, Afghan dolls, night gowns, embroidered collar's sheets, linen needle work and other handicraft which are sold through the stores of the club (*KNT*, February 1, 1988).

Three Women's Councils with a membership of 200 were set up recently in Aibak city. A source of the provincial women's council said that at present 3,200 women are organized in 47 villages, workplaces and neighbourhood women's councils in the province (*KNT*, February 6, 1988).

The two week pioneer's camp of Watan Children's Home named,

"National Reconciliation" ended on February 10. 720 children attended the camp, where they were provided entertainments including films, story reading and sports etc. They also visited factories, hospitals, historic monuments and cultural institutions. Gifts were presented to a number of pioneers at the conclusion of the camp (*KNT*, February 11, 1988).

Human Rights

The UN Commission on Human Rights has passed a resolution with an overwhelming majority expressing concern over the situation in Afghanistan.

The resolution passed by 31 to 5 votes calls for an early pull out of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union voted against the resolution while six countries abstained.

The resolution calls for a political solution of the Afghan problem based on independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan.

The UN document expressed concern that the people of Afghanistan are not being given the right to self-determination and have been deprived to elect a government of their own choice.

The resolution calls for a safe and honourable return home of Afghan refugees and appeals to all countries and international organizations to provide assistance on humanitarian grounds to reduce the hardships of Afghan refugees.

The Soviet Union, opposing the resolution, described it as imbalanced and said that fresh positive trends relating to the Afghanistan situation, have not been kept in view (*VOA*, February 22, 1988).

Drug Route to Europe Through USSR

A British Foreign Office Minister, Mr. Tim Eggar has accused the Soviet backed government in Afghanistan of tolerating the cultivation of drugs in areas of the country under its control. Mr. Eggar said new drug routes to Europe through the Soviet Union had opened up recently and the government in Kabul was turning a blind eye to the problem. He said the Soviet authorities were doing everything they could to cooperate with the International Agencies to stop drug trading (*BBC*, February 5, 1988).

Embezzlement, Bribery and Smuggling

The Attorney General's office of the Republic of Afghanistan has detected over 1,000 criminal cases in the capital and provinces during the past nine months of the current year (begun March 20, 1987).

According to a source of the Attorney General's Office these cases include mainly embezzlement, bribery and smuggling. 70% of the cases have been legally processed and 30% are under prosecution. Over 124 million Afghanis have been confiscated from the criminals and transferred to the state, the source added (*KNT*, February 22, 1988).

Recruitment to the Armed Forces Stepped Up

The Government in Afghanistan has stepped up recruitment to the armed forces. Western diplomats in Pakistan say that as a part of the campaign the country's estimated 90 thousand troops have been offered more benefits and higher pay. Several thousand prisoners have also been released on conditions that they join the army. The Afghan News Agency say the Armed Forces have been reinforced by 37 thousand recruits in the past ten months (*VOG*, February 13, 1988).

Culture

International Seminar on history was held on February 3 in Kabul. Candidate academician Mohammad Kabir Ranjbar Vice President of the Academy of Sciences delivered the inaugural speech. The two day seminar is being attended by Scientists from the USSR, GDR, CSSR, India and Lecturers of Kabul University (*KNT*, February 4, 1988).

The cultural commission of the RC of the Republic of Afghanistan met in Kabul. It was attended by Haji Mohammad Samkani, acting first Vice President of the Republic of Afghanistan and Abdul Hamid Muhtat, Deputy Prime Minister. The report of the State Committee for Labour and Security on improving the living conditions of the injured, disabled and families of the martyrs of revolution was presented by Assadullah Kawish, President of the Committee. Orders and medals approved by President were awarded to members of the commission at the meeting (*KNT*, February 21, 1988).

Over 800 historical and cultural relics which depict the old times and civilization of the people of Afghanistan, are on display in the ethnographic museum located in Koti Baghcha in Kabul. Historical relics including costumes, jewellery, old furniture, arms, hunting equipment and cultural artifacts (*KNT*, February 7, 1988).

Abdul Hamid Muhtat Deputy Prime Minister of the RA, introduced on February 17, the newly appointed President of the State Committee for Culture, Latif Nezami to the Staff of that Committee (*KNT*, February 18, 1988).

Minister of culture of the Soviet Union told a Tass reporter that a cultural and art festival of Afghanistan would be held for the first time in the Soviet Union, this spring. The festival will begin in mid-April

1988, in Moscow and then continue in Tashkent capital of Uzbekistan and Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan. Plays of Kabul "Nindary" theatre, musical programmes and Afghan national dances would be included in the festival (*KNT*, February 18, 1988).

A week of Indian films was inaugurated on February 18, in Kabul Nindari. Organized by the State Committee of Radio-TV and Cinematography and the Indian Embassy, the festival will feature in addition to some previously screened films five new pictures (*KNT*, February 20, 1988).

An exhibition of books on "Science at the Service of Development and Progress" was opened in Kabul, on February 1, at the House of Soviet Science and Culture. The exhibition is being sponsored by the Academy of Sciences of Tajik-SSR (*KNT*, February 2, 1988).

In order to improve publication activities in the sphere of mass media, a local TV Unit was set up on February 8, in Paktiya province in a ceremony. It has started its telecast. A spokesman of the Bakhtar Information State Committee Department said that the Paktiya local TV Unit which operates on the secam system, will telecast for two hours (*KNT*, February 9, 1988).

The artists of the State Committee for Radio, TV and cinematography and Nargis ensemble gave performances in Gardez and other parts of Paktiya in honour of removal of the economic blockade of Khost. Over 70,000 local residents enjoyed the programmes, which included 68 performances. The directorate of culture in Paktiya has organized training course in miniature, painting, drawing etc (*KNT*, February 7, 1988).

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